

Produce bags

Enforcement begins 1 September 2024

What is proposed to be banned and when?

The sale and supply of plastic produce bags for fresh fruit and vegetables will be phased out from 27 February 2023. There will be a transition period of 18 months before the rules are enforced to allow businesses to use up supplies and source alternative products.

Enforcement of the ban on plastic produce bags for fruit and vegetables will commence on 1 September 2024.



Why ban plastic produce bags?

Each year Western Australians use more than 115 million produce bags. Most end up in landfill but many are littered in the environment, harming our wildlife. There are no recycling options for produce bags in WA and the bags contaminate other recycling streams.

Important: The Government of Western Australia is reviewing whether barrier bags – beyond those used for fresh fruit and vegetables – should be phased out, and whether a design standard is required for all produce/barrier bags. Businesses are strongly encouraged to register for updates via the [Plan for Plastics webpage](#).

What is not included in the ban?

- plastic produce bags which have achieved an Australian composting standard (AS 4736:2006 or AS 5810:2010)
- reusable produce bags made from plastic fabric such as polyester or nylon
- barrier bags necessary to meet food hygiene standards and avoid contamination from leaky products such as raw meat and fish
- barrier bags supplied in deli operations that supply dairy items such as cheeses and sliced meats including ham and salami
- produce bags supplied by bakeries or for the sale of loose baked goods
- produce pre-packaged off the premises (e.g. grape bags)
- bags sold on-shelf.

What alternatives are there?

Customers can bring their own reusable bags or take loose produce. Retailers may provide disposable alternatives such as compostable produce bags, paper bags or boxes.



Who will the ban apply to?

The ban applies to all businesses, manufacturers, retailers and distributors that sell or supply produce bags for the sale of fresh fruit and vegetables.