

Concerned about the environment? Spectrum Bags is...

The recent San Francisco legislation has brought about a wide range of discussion and uncertainty amongst consumers of Plastic bag products. Issues over what types of bags are now legal or illegal in the Bay Area have many consumers confused and concerned about their existing carry out bag programs and how this new law may affect them now and in the future. As the need for sustainable packaging grows rest assured Spectrum Bags is at the forefront of environmentally sensitive alternatives and programs available to our customers.

The San Francisco Ordinance

On March 7th, 2007 The San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance which initially applies to Grocery Stores within the limits of the City and County that have gross annual sales of \$2 million dollars or more. This ordinance will be extended to major pharmacy chains as well six months after its initial implementation slated for July 1st, 2007. This legislation requires these larger stores to offer customers only bags of recycled paper, plastic that can be turned into compost, or sturdy cloth or plastic that can be used repeatedly.

How does this legislation affect me?

In its current state unless your company generates annual sales over \$2 million dollars or more annually in Grocery sales it does not currently pertain to you. Environmental concerns and legislative changes do seem to be on the horizon so it is important to understand the terminology and choose the right supplier with the most "green" packaging options available.

Why Plastic, Not Paper?

Plastic bags use less energy and release less waterborne waste and atmospheric emissions in the process of manufacturing when compared to paper bags.* Plastic Bags take up less space when buried in landfills and cost much less to store. Add to that the savings in fuel costs due to the fact that they weigh only a fraction of equivalent paper bags. Most importantly Paper is made of tree pulp thus the impact of paper bag production on forests is enormous. Trees absorb Carbon Dioxide thus eliminating forests adds to the greenhouse element we are trying to combat.

*Source: Film and Bag Federation

Reduce Re-Use or Recycle

There are many different ways to help protect the environment. Consumers can reduce the number of bags in the environment by using larger thicker gauged bags that will increase the amount of product and weight that can be transported from store to home.



If re-usability is the objective, Spectrum Bags offers EcoTote™ in Non-woven and woven Polypropylene. This environmentally sensitive item accepted under the new guidelines in San Francisco offers a durable long lasting means of transporting items to its chosen destination.

EcoTote™ can also be made with up to 40% recycled content and is 100% recyclable minimizing the amount of plastic entering our landfills.



Does Spectrum offer Recycle Bag Programs?

Yes, Spectrum can develop a recycle bag program at the store level. We can provide recycle bins in either a closed loop whereupon we buy back re-claimed clean plastic bags or stores have the option of selling re-claimed plastic bags to local recyclers.

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