

Single Use Bag Fee

Suggested Response for Frequently Asked Questions of Cashiers and Workers

Below is a set of question frequently asked of cashiers/workers, use this as a training tool for your employees as they begin to receive questions from customers on the bag fee.

What will the bag fee be used for?

Businesses keep four cents of the fee in order to cover their costs of complying with the State law. The remaining six cents is sent to the City of Fruita for the uses to cover costs associated with the fee including administration, enforcement, education and waste diversion programs. Because it is a fee and not a tax, State law dictates that those funds can only be used for purposes listed above and cannot be used for general government expenses.

Why did the state of Colorado pass the law?

The bag fee is to encourage Coloradans to reduce their carryout bag consumption. It is one of the most effective ways to reduce usage. Plastic bags can pollute our community, waterways, and cause health issues with humans and wildlife. The City of Fruita supports taking steps to reduce the dependence on single-use items.

Is this just in Fruita or is it statewide?

This is a statewide law.

How can I avoid paying the bag fee?

Customers can avoid paying the 10-cent fee by bringing their own bags to the store or purchasing a reusable bag, if available. Customers can also choose not to bag their purchase.

I am on the State's Food Assistance Program, do I need to pay the fee?

No, customers on state or federal Food Assistance Programs (such as WIC or SNAP), will not be charged for single-use plastic or paper bags at the point of sale, but we encourage everyone to reduce single-use bags.

What if the bag rips? Do I have to pay for two?

No, accidents happen. You will not have to pay for the ripped bag.

Can I reuse the paper or plastic bags I have at home?

Yes, the fee is only charged the first time a bag is given to a customer. Any bag can be brought to the store for reuse.

What should I line my garbage container in now?

While many people reuse bags, many do not, which is why the fee was put into place. Small trash bags are available at retailers or disposable bags can be purchased at the checkout to be used for trash. The fee does not apply to produce bags, newspaper bags, etc., so if you produce very little trash those bags could be used for that purpose.

I don't want to purchase a reusable bag. What are my options?

You can reuse single-use plastic and paper bags you have at home.

I keep forgetting my reusable bags - any tips?

Place your reusable bags in the trunk of your car, backpack, bike bag, or near your front door. You can also place reusable bags under your keys so you remember to grab your bag when you shop.

Recommended language to inform customer of the bag fee:

Cashier: "Did you bring bags with you today?" If no, "No problem, single use bags are 10 cents each."

Cashier: "Would you like to buy a bag/bags today? There is a 10 cent fee for each."

Cashier: "Do you need any single use bags today? They are 10 cents each."



For more resources, visit:
fruita.org/bagfee

