

# New Jersey Single-Use Plastic Ban Will Be the Most Comprehensive in the Country

The New Jersey state legislature has voted to ban single-use plastic bags in all stores and restaurants. This bill also bans the use of single-use polystyrene at restaurants and paper bags at grocery stores and is the most thorough single-use plastic ban in the United States.

*This bill is probably the strongest, most comprehensive bill in the nation dealing with plastics and packaging. It will go a long way in our battle with plastic pollution."*

*Jeff Tittel, the director of the New Jersey Sierra Club*

The bill has been approved in the legislature, and NJ governor Scott Murphy is expected to sign the bill into law.

*"The governor is proud to support the strongest bag ban in the nation. This bill will significantly reduce the harm that these products cause to our environment."*

*Mahen Gunaratna, Governor Murphy's communications director*

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Plastics companies took advantage of the coronavirus earlier in the year to put holds on several plastic bag bans. Many municipalities, even in California, chose to instead ban reusable bags. Some states (Florida, cough, cough) even have laws prohibiting the ban of single-use plastics bags.

Many opponents of the bill claim that this ban will put businesses at a disadvantage, but at this point, there is no

excuse for continuing to use single-use plastic bags. Eco-friendly bag options are widely available. The average American family takes home an average of 1,500 plastic bags each year, and only 1% of those bags end up recycled. These bags stay in landfills for centuries, breaking down into microplastics and releasing endocrine disruptors.

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At this point, we are knowingly poisoning our environment and ourselves for grocery store convenience and fossil fuel profits. We shouldn't have to live this way.