



Town of Mansfield

6 Park Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048

Health Department

Amy Donovan-Palmer, MPH, RS

Health Agent

August 6, 2018

Dear Mansfield Business Owner:

At the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting, the residents of Mansfield voted to approve a new bylaw regarding disposable plastic bags used at local retail establishments. The definition of “retail establishment” includes, but is not limited to, retail stores, restaurants, pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores, liquor stores, seasonal and temporary businesses. The purpose of the approved bylaw is “to protect the Town’s natural beauty and irreplaceable natural resources by reducing the number of single-use plastic check-out bags that are distributed and used in the Town of Mansfield and to promote the use of reusable bags.”

This new bylaw prohibits the distribution of single-use, plastic check-out bags less than 4 mils thick provided to a customer at the point of sale. If your business qualifies for an exemption (see Article 45, Section IV, attached), you are required to provide for in-store collection and proper recycling of these exempt bags as outlined in the bylaw.

Implementation will take place in two stages. For stores that are 3,500 square feet or larger, and for chain stores with more than one location in Mansfield, the bylaw will take effect on **November 1, 2018**. For stores smaller than 3,500 square feet, the bylaw will take effect on **May 15, 2019**.

Paper bags will still to be allowed but must be 100% recyclable and made with at least 40% post-consumer recycled material. Paper bags must be labeled with this information to comply with the bylaw.

We would be glad to answer any questions about the bylaw requirements and we look forward to working with you to build a more sustainable future for our community. For your reference, a list of frequently asked questions and the full text of the bylaw is attached and is available on our website: <http://www.mansfieldma.com/town-government/departments/department-public-health/>

Sincerely,

Amy Donovan-Palmer, MPH, RS
Health Agent