



Pack your reusable bag or buy one of ours. You'll eliminate fees at checkout.  
Keep Breckenridge green and clean. Find out more at [sustainablebreck.com](http://sustainablebreck.com)

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## Disposable Bag Fee FAQs

### *Where do the fee revenues go?*

Revenues from the fee are divided between the retail store owners and the Reusable Bag Program fund. Store owners are allowed to keep 50% of the fee collected up to a maximum of \$1,000/month in the first year of the program and up to \$100/month in subsequent years. The ordinance allows monies collected in the Town's Reusable Bag Program fund to be used for public information and programs to reduce the use of disposable bags and to encourage the use of reusable bags, including providing reusable bags to residents and visitors. None of the revenues can be used for other unrelated governmental expenses.

### *Should I regularly clean my reusable bags?*

There is the possibility of certain items (e.g., raw poultry) contaminating other items if not properly packaged or if they come into contact with other items or bag surfaces and are not cleaned. For that reason, the Town has provided a fee exemption for bags that wrap these types of foods. We also recommend regular cleaning of reusable bags. Some reusable bags such as canvas bags can be machine-washed whereas other types, such as the Breckenridge Bag, should be wiped clean with some type of disinfectant. [This link](#) provides some good basic suggestions on avoiding the spread of foodborne illnesses when using reusable bags.

### *Are some types of bags exempt from the fee?*

Yes, plastic bags that are at least 2.25 mils thick are exempt from the ordinance. Bags made of canvas, woven polypropylene, or similar durable materials (commonly known as "reusable bags") are also exempt and thus can be used at checkout without paying the fee. Other exemptions apply to the following types of bags:

- A) A bag brought into a Retail Store by a customer and used to transport goods from the Retail Store.
- B) A bag that was previously used and made available to customers at a Retail Store.
- C) A bag provided to a customer at no charge if the customer provides evidence that he or she is a participant in a federal or state Food Assistance Program.
- D) Bags used by consumers inside Retail Stores to:
  1. Package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy or small hardware items like nails, nuts, and screws;
  2. Contain or wrap frozen or fresh foods, meat, or fish;
  3. Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items where dampness may be a problem; and
  4. Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods;
- E. A non-handled bag used to protect purchased items from damaging or contaminating other purchased items when placed in a Disposable Bag or a Reusable Bag.
- F. Bags used for loose small retail items, including, but not limited to, jewelry, buttons, beads, ribbon, herbs and spices, medical marijuana or adult-use marijuana if sold by the holder of a permit issued pursuant to applicable law, and similar items.

G. Bags provided by pharmacists to contain prescription drugs.

H. Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags, laundry-dry cleaning and garment bags, and bags sold in packages containing multiple bags for uses such as food storage, garbage, pet waste, or yard waste.

***I am a retail store owner. How do I report and remit my fees?***

[Please see detailed information on remitting fees here.](#)

***Can retail store owners pay the fee for the customer?***

No, Sections 5-12-8 A and B of the ordinance prohibit store owners from paying or otherwise refunding the fee amount to customers. The intent of the bag fee ordinance is to dissuade customers from using disposable bags. If store owners pay the fee, the motivation for customers to avoid taking a disposable bag is lessened.

***Are signs about the fee required in retail stores?***

Yes, per section 5-12-10 of the ordinance “Every retail store required to collect the Disposable Bag fee shall display a sign in a location outside or inside of the store, viewable by customers, alerting customers to the Town of Breckenridge’s Disposable Bag Fee”. Signs are available free of charge to retail store owners by contacting the Town of Breckenridge Community Development Department at 970-453-3160.

For more information, email [Jessie Burley](#), Sustainability Coordinator or call 970-547-3110.