

Buyers, Beware: County's Plastic Bag Ban Expands to Small Stores Next Month



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If you live, work, or, most importantly, shop in unincorporated Los Angeles County, reusable shopping bags should be on your holiday wish list, because the ban on single-use plastic bags expands to include smaller stores effective January 1, 2012.

Those stores include convenience stores, smaller grocery stores, pharmacies, and food marts. A full list of stores is **available via the County's bag ban info site**. Customers who do not bring in their own bags will have to pay a 10 cent fee for each paper bag they need for their purchase.

The first phase of the ban, which covered "big" retailers in unincorporated L.A. County, **went into enforcement on July 1**. The ban was **approved** in November 2010.

Similar bans, often mimicking the model established by L.A. County, have gone into effect in local municipalities. A ban in the City of Los Angeles was **recently tabled until January**.