



green.dc.gov/bags

Beginning
January 1, 2010,
District businesses that
sell food or alcohol
must charge you
5 cents
for each disposable
paper or plastic carryout bag.

Why a 5-cent fee for each bag?

Carryout bags are a major source of pollution in the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and Rock Creek. The fee will help cut down on the number of bags used in the District, and help keep our waterways clean.

How can I avoid paying 5 cents?

You can bring your own bag!

Some businesses will even give you a 5-cent credit for each bag you bring in, meaning you'll actually save 10 cents on every bag. Also, if you shop with a rolling cart that you bring from home, consider asking the cashier to put your groceries directly in the cart without bagging them.

Where do my 5 cents go?



The business keeps 1 cent.



If the business offers you a credit for bringing your own bag, it keeps another 1 cent.

The remaining 3 or 4 cents go to the new Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund, to pay for reusable bags for District residents, education campaigns about litter and to clean the river itself.

Learn more: green.dc.gov/bags



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