

# Plastic produce bag ban



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

From 1 July 2023, single-use plastic produce bags that are provided loose by a store or retailer to pack fresh fruits and vegetables are banned. This includes recyclable, biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastic produce bags.

Aotearoa New Zealand recycles less than five per cent of all soft plastics, with most ending up in our landfills or as litter in our environment. This ban will remove 150 million plastic produce bags a year.

## Banned



## Allowed



or go without a bag

### Wholesale or delivered produce

You may no longer use loose plastic bags to pack a produce order. Consider delivering produce packed in paper bags or a box.

### Fruit and vegetable markets

You may no longer offer loose plastic bags to customers for fruit and vegetables. Encourage customers to bring their own bags, provide baskets or supply paper bags.

### What's not included

Bags used for pre-packed (sealed or unsealed) produce are not banned. For example, pre-packed salads, sealed bags of apples, potatoes or sugar snap peas, or plastic sleeves used for leafy greens, herbs or grapes.



Visit: [www.environment.govt.nz/plastics](http://www.environment.govt.nz/plastics) or email: [plastics@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:plastics@mfe.govt.nz)

He taiao tōnui mō ngā reanga katoa –  
a flourishing environment for every generation.