



**The Western Australian Government  
will implement a state-wide ban on  
lightweight plastic shopping bags  
from 1 July 2018.**

From 1 January 2019 it will be illegal for retailers  
to provide banned bags to customers.

The ban applies to ALL retailers including takeaway food.



GOVERNMENT OF  
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National Retail  
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# WHAT RETAILERS NEED TO DO

## 1. FIND OUT IF YOUR BAGS ARE BANNED

The ban will apply to ALL lightweight plastic shopping bags, with a thickness of 35 microns or less, including degradable, biodegradable and compostable bags.

Ask your bag supplier to provide evidence of the thickness (microns or 'um') of your bags. Suppliers face substantial fines for providing false or misleading information about banned bags from 1 July 2018.

Barriers bags used for perishable unpackaged produce (eg. for fruit or meat) and product packaging (eg. bread bags) are not included in the ban.



## 2. PHASE OUT ALL EXISTING STOCK OF BANNED BAGS

Retailers should cease buying banned bags from 1 July 2018 and deplete existing stock. Retailers face substantial fines if they supply banned bags to customers after 31 December 2018.

Even if your bags are technically compliant you may want to consider alternative options to align with consumer expectations and trends.

## 3. INTRODUCE ALTERNATIVES

Each business has unique needs and customers and you should weigh up the best option for you, such as paper, cardboard, woven, fabric or heavyweight reusable plastic bags. You may choose to charge a small fee for these bags to cover costs, or you may even decide that you don't really need to provide bags at all.



**FIND OUT MORE:**

**[www.bagbanwa.com.au](http://www.bagbanwa.com.au)**

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