



# Town of Sudbury

## Board of Health

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DPW Office Building  
275 Old Lancaster Road  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
978 440-5479

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Dear Sudbury Business Owner,

We are writing to make sure you are aware of the specific provisions of the new bylaw bans on shopping bags and water bottles that will apply to all Sudbury merchants. The bylaws were approved by Sudbury Town Meeting with the goals of reducing litter, encouraging recycling, and reduce plastics in the environment to create a more environmentally sustainable community. For your reference, a frequently asked questions document is included with this letter and the full text of the bylaw is available on our website: <http://Sudbury.ma.us/health/>.

### **BAG BAN**

**Timing:** The bylaw will take effect on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Plastic Bags:** The new bylaw prohibits the distribution of single-use, plastic check out bags that are less than 4 mils thick. The bylaw does not prohibit thin film bags typically without handles such as plastic produce bags, newspaper bags, dry cleaning bags, dog waste bags, garbage bags, or other plastic film product.

**Paper Bags-** The new bylaw requires that all paper shopping bags must be 100% recyclable and made with at least 40% post-consumer recycled material (already and industry standard). Paper bags must be labeled with this information to comply with the bylaw. Please note that paper shopping bags with non-recyclable string or ribbon handles are prohibited.

**Reusable Bags-** This bylaw outlines specifications for bags that may be distributed or sold as “reusable”. The purpose of these specifications is to avoid distribution of bags that are not truly reusable. The Board of Health, Sustainable Sudbury and the Sudbury community is committed to long-term public promotion of reusable bags as the best solution for our environment.

### **WATER BOTTLE BAN**

**Timing:** The bylaw will take effect on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Water Bottles:** The bylaw prohibits the sale of non-reusable polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles of 1 liter (34 ounces) or less containing noncarbonated, unflavored, drinking water in the Town of Sudbury. Water may be provided for free in any form.

**Exemptions:** In the event of a declaration of an emergency by the Emergency Management Director, water bottles may be sold until seven days after the declaration.

**ENFORCEMENT**- The Sudbury Health Department will enforce the bylaws through written warning notices and fines for continued non-compliance. Health Department Director Bill Murphy may grant an extension for compliance if the laws causes undue hardship or if the business needs more time to draw down existing inventory.

We would be glad to answer any questions about the bylaw requirements and we look forward to working with you to build a more sustainable future for our community.

Sincerely,

Bill Murphy  
Director of Public Health  
Sudbury Health Department

Encl. What you need to know about the new Sudbury Bylaws Banning Plastic Shopping Bags and Water Bottles