

DEC: Enforcement of New York's plastic bag ban to start Oct. 19

State encourages New Yorkers to BYOBAGNY

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos announced DEC will begin enforcement of the state's ban on single-use plastic carryout bags on Oct. 19. The plastic bag ban, which went into effect on March 1, was not enforced per an agreement between the parties in a lawsuit brought by Poly-Pak Industries Inc., et al, in New York State Supreme Court.

Seggos said, "The court's decision is a victory and a vindication of New York state's efforts to end the scourge of single-use plastic bags and a direct rebuke to the plastic bag manufacturers who tried to stop the law and DEC's

regulations to implement it. As we have for many months, DEC is encouraging New Yorkers to make the switch to reusable bags whenever and wherever they shop and to use common-sense precautions to keep reusable bags clean. The court has ruled and DEC will begin to enforce the ban on Oct. 19. It's time to BYOBAGNY."

Pursuant to an order of the New York State Supreme Court, Albany County, DEC agreed to provide the parties and the court at least 30 days' notice prior to commencing enforcement. DEC is currently conducting extensive outreach to stakeholders, including grocery stores, retailers and others, to pro-

vide notice of the start of enforcement and answer questions.

DEC continues to encourage New Yorkers to use reusable bags wherever and whenever they shop with the #BYOBAGNY campaign, launched earlier this year. Additional information about exemptions to the plastic bag ban, frequently asked questions, and posters, flyers and tip strips to download, as well as tips for keeping reusable bags clean, are available on the DEC website.

New Yorkers use an estimated 23 billion plastic bags annually – each for about 12 minutes – and approximately 85% of this staggering total ends up in landfills, recycling machines, waterways

and streets. In March 2017, Gov. Andrew Cuomo created the New York state plastic bag task force, chaired by Seggos. A press release said, "The task force met several times to develop a uniform, comprehensive and equitable solution to the challenge of plastic bag waste. The final report analyzed the impacts of single-use plastic bags and provided options for legislation that could help develop a statewide solution. In addition, following passage of the New York State Plastic Bag Waste Reduction Act, DEC held a series of meetings with industry stakeholders across the state to invite input from the public and guide the agency's development

of rules and regulations to implement the law."

For more information about the plastic bag ban, reusable bags, or to file a complaint about entities using single-use plastic carryout bags, visit DEC's website, email plasticbags@dec.ny.gov, or call 518-402-8706.

The lawsuit was brought by Poly-Pak Industries Inc., Green Earth Food Corp., Francisco Marte, Mike Hassen, and the Bodega and Small Business Association in New York State Supreme Court. DEC was represented by the New York State Attorney General's Office in the lawsuit. The court issued its decision in the case on Aug. 20.

DMV to expand online services

DMV launches online permit test and online vehicle registration pilot programs

Other transactions available in person by reservation only

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Friday announced the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is expanding online services, making it easier for New Yorkers to do business with the DMV from the comfort of their homes, and allowing the DMV to serve more customers in person who cannot complete their transactions online. The DMV has initiated a pilot program to offer the written learner permit tests for passenger cars (Class D) and motorcycles (Class M) online. It is also piloting a process to allow customers who reside in counties served by the state DMV to register their vehicles online.

"As the last six months have demonstrated, we need to continue reimagining how to provide essential government services safely, securely and efficiently in the midst of this pandemic," Cuomo said. "These online options will make it more convenient for New Yorkers to access the services they need, while reducing congestion in the DMV offices and helping continue our shared progress in stopping the spread of this virus."

DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder said, "We always strive to adapt and modernize our services to better meet the needs of our customers and to make things safer as we battle the coronavirus. Offering these transactions online is more convenient and safer for those who need to get a permit or register a vehicle, and it allows us to free up more space in our offices to serve those who cannot do their transaction remotely."

Online Permit Test

Select customers who currently have a reservation for an in-office permit test will be invited to take the exam online and, following the successful launch of this pilot, the online option will become available to all permit applicants later this fall.

The most time-consuming aspect of getting a learner permit is taking the exam. By offering the test online, New Yorkers will save significant time when they come to the DMV to finish the application process and will be able to take the test at their convenience in a familiar and safe environment. It also frees up office space, allowing the DMV to

accommodate more customers in-person who cannot complete their transactions online or by mail or drop box.

The online learner permit tests contain 50 questions and take approximately 45 to 60 minutes to complete. Those who pass the test will receive an email with further instructions about making a reservation at a DMV office to complete the process of getting their learner permit. An appointment to complete the process takes only five minutes, on average.

Applicants should use this guide to make sure they have the documents and proofs of identification needed, before going to the DMV. Applicants have two years from the time they pass the test to schedule a reservation at the DMV and complete the application process.

A parent or guardian must supervise the test for anyone 16 or 17 years old, and then must accompany the applicant to the DMV to complete the application process and certify they performed these duties.

The tests are available in 16 languages, including: English, Spanish, Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Bosnian, Chinese, French, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Polish and Russian.

Reservations for road tests are available across the state to all drivers who have a permit. Drivers under age 18 must wait at least six months from the date they received their learner permit to schedule a road test.

Online Vehicle Registration

For the first time ever, New Yorkers who live in counties with state-run DMV offices – New York, Kings, Queens, Bronx, Richmond, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Albany and Onondaga counties – can now register their vehicles online on the DMV website. This eliminates the need to visit a DMV office, making it safer and more convenient, and it allows the DMV to offer more appointments to customers needing transactions that must be completed in-person. The DMV is working with county clerks who operate DMV offices in the remaining 51 counties to expand the online registration service statewide.

Before registering a vehicle,

the customer must get it insured. Then, they can use the step-by-step online registration tool to register a vehicle online.

Step 1: Use the DMV document guide to determine what documents are required

Step 2: Provide basic information about the registrant and the vehicle

Step 3: Attach documents by sending DMV a picture or scanning and uploading them

Step 4: Submit

Once a customer's application is submitted, they will receive a confirmation email. DMV will contact the customer when the exact fee has been determined to process their payment by credit card. The DMV website allows a customer to estimate their registration fees.

Once processed, the plates, registration sticker and temporary inspection sticker will be mailed to them. Once they have received their registration sticker and license plates, drivers must get their vehicles inspected.

The DMV will also provide an envelope so the customer can mail in their original paperwork. It is recommended customers make a copy of their completed application and title to retain for their records. Once DMV receives the original documents, a new title will be mailed to the customer.

The online registration form can be used to register the following types of vehicles:

- ✓ Cars
- ✓ Motorcycles
- ✓ Vans
- ✓ Trucks
- ✓ Trailers
- ✓ Recreational vehicles (boats, snowmobiles, and ATVs)

Other Online Services

There are also more than 60 other online transactions available. Customers can renew or replace their registration, renew their driver license, obtain a driving record (abstract), change their address, and plead or pay New York City traffic tickets and associated fees online.

In-Person Services

In-office reservations are available for a limited number of in-person services that cannot be done online, by mail or drop box. Reservations are required for all in-person transactions.

The DMV recommends all customers visit the DMV web-

site and follow these tips, before coming to an office:

✓ Check available services. Customers should make sure the service they want is being offered. Available services for each office are listed on the office locations webpage.

✓ Gather required documents. Information on what documents are needed for each transaction can be found on the DMV website at dmv.ny.gov. Anyone planning to get a permit, a license or register a car for the first time should use our online document guides that allow customers to print a checklist of the documents they need.

✓ Make a reservation. Appointments are required for any in-office visit. Customers can make a reservation to visit a state-run office at <https://nysdmvqw.us.qmatic.cloud/naoa/index.jsp> or by contacting their local DMV. To make sure transactions can be processed in the allotted reservation time and ensure social distancing, the DMV will only honor reservations for the service selected – other transactions will not be allowed.

For more information about DMV, follow DMV on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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