



THE BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN

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We are proud to announce that the Jenkintown Borough Council, with the assistance of the Jenkintown Environmental Advisory Committee, passed a new ordinance on March 25, 2026 to tackle the growing environmental and public health threat caused by single-use plastic waste. Effective **July 23, 2026**, businesses in Jenkintown will no longer be permitted to provide single-use plastic bags to customers. Also on **July 23, 2026**, businesses will only provide compostable straws and stirrers unless a single-use plastic straw is requested by the customer. Customers may bring their own bags or be provided a recycled or reusable paper bag from the business for a minimum fee of \$0.10. Please note, persons using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Pennsylvania Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits will be exempt from the fee. This fee may be waived for online orders. All proceeds will be retained by the retail establishment.

Businesses must display signage informing customers of these changes as of **April 22, 2026 at least until September 23, 2026**. This signage explains what types of bags and purchases are impacted. An example is provided with this email as well as downloadable from the Borough website here: www.jenkintownboro.com

The Jenkintown Environmental Advisory Committee has prepared an information Tool Kit to assist in compliance with the new law. Businesses are encouraged to read the ordinance itself, which may be found on the Borough website at the above referenced link. The ordinance includes findings, definitions, exemptions, and penalties related to the distribution and use of single-use carry-out bags, reusable bags, plastic straws, and stirrers.

By taking a stand against single-use plastics, the Borough is exemplifying its commitment to environmental stewardship and our ongoing effort to conserve resources and increase the quality of life for the Borough's residents and visitors. While a small change, a goal of this ordinance is to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, waste, litter, and water pollution, and to protect the public health and welfare in our community, including wildlife. Your cooperation is appreciated.