

'Don't charge 5p for green bags': Two thirds of shoppers think biodegradable and recyclable carriers should be exempt from levy set to be introduced in the autumn

- Ministers are bringing in 5p charge for plastic bags to cut their use
- However, survey has revealed a consumer backlash against the change
- A huge 98 per cent object to it claiming they already reuse their bags
- More than 85 per cent believe all plastic bags should be biodegradable

By [LAURA CHESTERS FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:57, 5 August 2015 | **UPDATED:** 23:03, 5 August 2015

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Nearly two-thirds of shoppers believe biodegradable and recyclable bags should be exempt from the levy being introduced this autumn.

Ministers are bringing in a 5p charge for plastic bags from October to cut their use. However, a YouGov survey has revealed a consumer backlash against the charge.

A huge 98 per cent object to it claiming they already re-use their bags. More than 85 per cent of shoppers believe all plastic bags should be recyclable and biodegradable.



Crackdown: Ministers are bringing in a 5p charge for plastic bags from October to cut their use (file image)

More than eight billion disposable bags are used in England each year. Environmental campaigners say they harm wildlife and take up to 1,000 years to degrade.

The plan for the levy does not currently distinguish between traditional plastic carrier bags and those that are both biodegradable and recyclable. But the Government is reviewing the biodegradability of lightweight plastics.

YouGov interviewed more than 2,000 people for the survey funded by Symphony Environmental Technologies, which develops environmentally-friendly plastic technology.

Michael Laurier, chief executive of Symphony, said: 'Despite the 5p charge a large number of carrier bags will be supplied, and many of them could get out into the open environment where they could lie or float around for decades.'



Damaging: Campaigners say plastic bags harm wildlife and take up to 1,000 years to degrade (file image)

'It is not good enough for them to be recyclable – they must also be biodegradable.'

The new plastic bag charge is expected to raise millions of pounds ; charities and causes nominated by shop owners.

Small and medium sized businesses, with 500 employees or fewer, to protect independent retailers.

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[mr twids](#), huddersfield, United Kingdom, 5 years ago

The DO-GOODERS strike again, what a set of tw-ts

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[Brother Anthony](#), Reading UK, United Kingdom, 5 years ago

Gosh I'd better start stocking up on them now. Mind you I still have 500 unuse Day Week during the Miner's Strike of 1973, and about 250 1St Class Postag years ago to avoid the price rise.

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[Canny Lass](#), Newcastle upon tyne, United Kingdom, 5 years ago



As with ordinary plastic bags bio-degradable ones still pose a threat to wildlife and still end up as rubbish so should be charged for. It appears most people only think about their own convenience and not the environment so make them pay to encourage them to change their thoughtless ways and bring their own bags.

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[True-brit](#), Burnley, United Kingdom, 5 years ago

Once again the vast majority of people who re use their plastic bags and do not just throw them away in the street but bin them when they have become ripped have to pay and are inconvenienced because of a mindless minority who just litter the streets and parks with their empty bags because they are too lazy to reuse them or put them in the bin.

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[Ann](#), London, 5 years ago

Newspapers just ran an article saying your reusable shopping bag is full of e coli from your fruit and vegetables.

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[Walter Bean](#), Hull, United Kingdom, 5 years ago

I get my groceries from Ocado and they bring them in big, grey bags that have the type of grocer on the side (fridge/freezer/cupboard) and although they make an issue of getting the bags back, they are not reused but sent to be recycled. Even if they are perfect.

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[lodge60](#), abergavenny, 5 years ago

In Wales, you get charged for PAPER bags at Macdonalds in Newport.

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[brian r](#), great bookham, 5 years ago

like many others i use the plastic bags to put my rubbish in, so when this charge comes in i will have to purchase rubbish bags and guess what, they will be plastic, only now i will have to buy them, thanks dm

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[Sapper764](#), Epsom, United Kingdom, 5 years ago

We managed perfectly well with paper bags before the plastic deluge. Why ca them?

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[dabar](#), belfast, 5 years ago

Good news is that it stops you buying so much. Often if i can't carry it, or can't be bothered carrying it, I no longer buy it. The 5p charge has saved me money and is helping to bankrupt firms like tesco. Win Win!

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