

# CITY OF MALIBU

Environmental Sustainability Department  
MalibuCity.org/Enviro



## PLASTIC SANDBAGS ARE **BANNED** IN MALIBU

Biodegradable sandbags, like burlap and jute, are allowed.

Retailers, government agencies, and vendors may not provide plastic sandbags.

Plastic sandbags may only be used in emergencies by first responders.



# City of Malibu

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## Information Bulletin

### City's Implementation of Local Law: Ban on Sandbags made from Plastic or Containing Plastic Materials Effective June 8, 2017

*Malibu Municipal Code (MMC), Chapter 9.30 provides: "No affected retail establishment, governmental agency, vendor or nonprofit vendor shall provide plastic sandbags to customers...No person shall distribute or use plastic sandbags at any City facility or any event held on city property. No person, entity, business, homeowner, nonprofit, contractor, subcontractor or employee shall install for any purpose, whether temporary or permanent, plastic sandbags." Violations of the provisions of this chapter are subject to the administrative penalty provisions of Chapter 1.10. The City has therefore implemented an outreach and education program to assist the community with compliance.*

To see the full text of this law visit the City's website at:  
<http://qcode.us/codes/malibu/>

Sandbags are used for a variety purposes including storm water erosion and sediment control, flooding, and general construction. They are effective, inexpensive, compact, lightweight and easily transported and stored. The most common use for sandbags in Malibu is the temporary stabilization of soil from erosion along the shoreline as beaches and bluffs erode, or on hillsides where slopes may erode due to storm water.

The City's Plastic Sandbag Ban allows for use of biodegradable sandbags that can readily decompose into natural materials in the environment without causing harm. Burlap or jute sandbags do not have the same impact on the environment as plastic-based sandbags or plastic-coated burlap sandbags which do not readily degrade. Burlap sandbags are capable of providing the same erosion and flooding protection provided by polypropylene and other plastic based sandbags.

Exemptions include the use of plastic sand bags only in the following instances:

- City Manager may exempt (not to exceed 30 days) a retail establishment, vendor, nonprofit, business, homeowner or other affected entity or party when due cause has been demonstrated.
- Retail establishments, vendors and nonprofit vendors that have entered into agreements for the purchase of plastic sandbags within the year prior to June 8, 2017 are exempt for 1 additional year following the operative date or the expiration of the contract.
- Plastic sandbags may be used to protect property from hazards on an emergency basis and must be removed immediately when the hazard has been abated.
- Plastic sandbags may be used for emergency purposes by first responders as needed to abate the emergency until other means of protection can be employed.