

# Tetrapack, branded chip makers may have to collect & recycle their plastic

## Containers May Be Allowed For Cold Takeways But Not For Hot

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### Mumbai:

The state government, which is revising the list of banned plastic items, is likely to bring tetrapacks and multilayered packaging for items such as branded chips and snacks within the ambit of the law.

Officials said while they will not ban these items, they are likely to cover manufacturers under the extended producer responsibility (EPR), whereby these manufacturers will be given three months' time to ensure collection and recycling of the packs that they have sold. So far, the law does not say anything about tetrapacks and multi-layered packaging.

“Tetrapacks also take a toll on the environment and are equally, if not more, polluting. The inner layer in a tetrapack is made of thick plastic. Manufacturers will have to take responsibility for what they are producing,” said an official.

On Wednesday, environment minister Ramdas Kadam had announced that the state will exempt retail packaging from the banned list and that a notification to the effect would be issued on Thursday. Officials, though, said the notification is now likely on Friday.

Meanwhile, officials added that they are looking at allowing takeaway containers for cold items such as sweets and yoghurt but not for hot ones such as curries or sambar.

“Hot items should not be stored or served in plastic containers, as chemicals from the plastic starts leeching into the food, which is detrimental to health,” said an official.

The state government has also given instructions to stop penalizing garbage bin liners and takeaway containers used by restaurants.

The government will ask bulk consumers such as malls, multiplexes and marriage halls to set up collection centres in their premises so that the plastic waste generated can be collected in one place and sent for recycling.

Officials said to avoid confusion, the environment department will come out with a pictorial list of what is exempted and what is not. Massive awareness campaigns will be started about the ban too.

The state will implement the buyback scheme for PET bottles and milk packs from July 11.

Consumers will be charged Rs 2 and Re 1 over the MRP for bottles of 500ml and one litre, respectively, and once they deposit the bottles, they will get a refund. Similarly, 50 paise will be charged on milk packets.

## Stay ban till govt term ends: Purohit

## THE BAN, IN A NUTSHELL

**NOV 2017** | State environment minister Ramdas Kadam announces that govt is working on a policy to ban plastic in state



**MARCH 23** | State issues notification to ban all kinds of plastic carry bags, mini PET bottles, one-time use cutlery

**FINE** | ₹5,000 for first offence for flouting ban, ₹10,000 for second, ₹25,000 for third and 3 months' jail



**APRIL 11** | State issues a notification exempting mini PET bottles of less than 500ml capacity, but stipulates a refundable ₹2 recycling charge

> It extends deadline for consumers and retailers



to dispose of banned items to 3 months from 1 month

**JUNE 27** | Kadam says govt has exempted retail packaging, but with riders

> Retailers given 3 mth for collection and recycling of packs they sell

> No penalty on garbage bin liners and restaurant takeaways, for now



**ACTION TAKEN ON THURSDAY**

No. of establishments visited

**4,690**

Fine collected

**₹1.2 lakh**

Plastic seized

**41 kg**

BJP legislator Raj Purohit has demanded a stay on the plastic ban till this

government's term comes to an end.

Speaking to mediapersons in Mantralaya on Thursday, Purohit said he led a delegation of traders from his Colaba assembly constituency and demanded that the plastic ban be stayed till December 2019. The tenure of the Devendra Fadnavis government will come to an end in 2019. Purohit said traders are being treated as criminals after the ban and that it was implemented in haste and not enough time was given to citizens. "The huge fine of Rs 5,000 and the provision of imprisonment will create anti-government sentiments among the trading community and so the ban should be implemented after the elections," said Purohit. TNN