

# Plastic ban squad to carry out checks at shops starting Mon

## State Govt Might Exclude Garbage Liners From Ban

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### Mumbai:

From Monday, 250 inspectors appointed by the BMC to implement the plastic ban will fan out across the city to visit shops, restaurants and other commercial establishments and penalize those found in possession of banned items.

The BMC chief held a meeting with senior civic officials on Thursday to discuss the nitty-gritties of the ban and instructed them to focus on shopkeepers, malls and commercial establishments in high footfall areas during the initial days. The BMC has issued a list of places these inspectors can visit to penalize offenders (see box).

The civic body is gearing up for the ban with a three-day exhibition from Friday.

A total of 61 companies and 50 women's self-help groups will display alternatives to plastic products. All 250 inspectors will participate in this exhibition.

The exhibition will be inaugurated at the National Sports Club of India in Worli in the presence of actors Ajay Devgan and Kajol, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis' wife Amruta Fadnavis, Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray, environment minister Ramdas Kadam and other leaders and civic officials.

The BMC plans to arrange a panel discussion at the exhibition to gauge senior politicians' opinion on certain types of plastics for which alternatives are not available. The government might consider excluding a few items such as garbage bin liners from the ban.

The BMC has conducted a workshop for its 250 inspectors. They will be provided with uniforms and each will be assigned specific areas and won't be allowed to visit others'. They must show their identity cards to those they intend to penalize. The BMC has put up list of the inspectors on its website along with the areas allotted to them.

Kiran Dighavkar, assistant civic commissioner, said, "Our intention is to educate people by penalizing them for violating the law, not terrorize them."

# CARRY CLOTH BAGS, STEEL BOXES

## MARCH 23 PLASTIC BAN NOTIFICATION

Notification, under Maharashtra Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act 2006, bans manufacture, sale, transport, storage and use of plastic, including bags, spoons, forks, cups, glasses, containers and thermocol

## WHAT YOU CAN & CAN'T BE SEEN WITH

### Banned items

- > All kinds of plastic bags
- > Plastic containers used for packaging food in hotels and restaurants
- > Ziplock pouches

### > Cling foil

### Not banned

- > Shampoo and oil bottles
- > Packaging done by manufacturers of fast-moving consumer goods, electronics and durables



## BMC INSPECTORS CAN VISIT:

- > All shops and establishments, and public places
- > Bus stops, stations
- > Beaches and seafront
- > National Park and Aarey Colony

Plastic collected by BMC in the past month  
**1,45,867kg**

## ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC: BMC SUGGESTIONS

- > Carry cloth bags
- > Use steel, glass water bottles
- > Carry a steel container to buy milk or meat

■ Collect plastic from all flats and inform BMC on **1800222357**; civic workers will collect it from your society

## WHO CAN BE PENALIZED?

- > Anybody with plastic in state
- > Commercial establishments
- > Govt, pvt bodies
- > Schools, colleges
- > Industrial units
- > Sports complexes, theatres and party halls

