

**ReTHINK
WASTE**

PLASTIC BAGS AND SINGLE-USE ITEMS BYLAW



**BUSINESS
REFERENCE GUIDE**

INTRODUCTION

THE BYLAW

The City of Surrey is leading by example and has recently passed the Plastic Bags and Single-Use Items Bylaw No. 20250 to reduce the negative impacts of these items. The Bylaw is planned to come into effect November 2021, which will ban the use and distribution of plastic checkout bags, foam cups and take-out containers. We understand that this will be a significant change for businesses and residents, and the City will be supporting businesses to successfully transition away from these items to more sustainable alternatives.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Plastic bags and single-use items (SUIs) are products and packaging that are disposed of after one use. These include take out containers, disposable cups, utensils, plastic straws, and plastic bags. It is estimated 76 million SUIs are sent to landfill annually from Surrey.

The use of single-use items results in increased energy and resource consumption, scattered litter, and increased landfill waste. Single-use items can end up in waterways, contaminating the water and adversely impacting fish and marine life. Additionally, these items are not all recyclable or compostable.

Businesses and organizations around the world are taking action to eliminate single-use items.

Surrey's Plastic Bags and Single-Use Items Bylaw is aimed to restrict and eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags and foam takeout containers and cups. Taking action to reduce these items is strongly supported by Surrey residents. In a survey of over 2,300 Surrey residents, 83% supported reducing or restricting the use of plastic bags and 86% supported banning polystyrene foam takeout containers.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The City of Surrey is developing a Zero Waste Strategy to support the City's goal of becoming the first zero waste community in Canada. The strategy will include a circular economy principle where there is continual use of materials through reuse, recycling, or recovery into new products.

By taking action on plastic bags and other single-use items, Surrey will eliminate the 25.6 million plastic checkout bags and 7.3 million foam containers and cups that is sent to landfill annually, in their place, more sustainable products can be used which can be reused or recycled.

The Surrey business community is key to ensuring a cleaner, more sustainable Surrey. Let's work together to eliminate the reliance of single-use items and shift to using more sustainable products to build a circular economy.

WASTE HIERARCHY



HOW ARE BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY THE BYLAW

All businesses will be required to comply with the bylaw which includes any person, organization, or group engaged in a trade, business, profession, occupation, calling, employment, or purpose that is regulated under the City's Business License By-law, 1999, No. 13680 and includes a person employed by, or operating on behalf of, a Business.

The City understands some exceptions must be accommodated to address health and safety considerations and accessibility. These exemptions are further detailed under each category on the next pages.

Implementation

1. January 2020: Mayor and Council seek to ban Plastic Bags and Other Single Use Items
2. February 2020: Corporate Report to Council outlining the strategy
3. December 2020: Council passes 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings of the Bylaw
4. February 2021: Receive Provincial Approval for Bylaw
5. May 2021: Council approved the Communication and Education Plan to prepare businesses for the ban, planned to begin November 2021.
6. November 2021: Planned Ban Start Date
7. November 2022: Charitable food provider exemption planned to be removed

ENFORCEMENT

The City's enforcement plan will begin by educating and working with businesses to support their compliance efforts. There will be a phased approach to ensure that businesses have all the information and resources necessary to comply. This process will then involve direct outreach with businesses to ensure compliance.

PLASTIC BAGS

STYROFOAM

PLASTIC CHECKOUT GROCERY BAGS

Plastic checkout bags are convenient, but they are a major source of waste, pollution, and litter on City streets. Their use can be reduced or avoided completely.

Planned for November 2021, businesses will be prohibited from providing and distributing plastic checkout bags to customers. Plastic Checkout Bags are defined in the bylaw as any bag made wholly or partially with plastic, including biodegradable plastic or compostable plastic, but does not include a "Reusable Checkout Bag" that is: (a) intended to be used by a customer for the purpose of transporting items purchased or received by the customer from the Business providing the bag; or (b) intended to be used to package take-out or delivery food.

ALTERNATIVE SUBSTITUTES

In place of plastic checkout bags which will be banned, a Business may provide a Paper Checkout Bag or Reusable Checkout Bag to a customer only if:

- a) The customer is first asked if they need a checkout bag.
- b) The customer is charged a fee not less than \$0.25 for every Paper Checkout Bag.
- c) The customer is charged a fee not less than \$2.00 for every Reusable Checkout Bag.
- d) The amount charged for any Paper Checkout Bags or Reusable Checkout Bags provided to a customer is shown as a separate line item on any receipt provided to the customer.
- e) The fees shall not apply to Paper Checkout Bags or Reusable Checkout Bags that have already been used by a customer and returned to a Business for the purpose of being re-used by other customers.
- f) The Paper Checkout Bag is made at minimum of 40% recycled content

The fees ensure that there are no trade-offs resulting in excessive paper bag use or reusable bag purchasing. These fees will help provide retailers with cost recovery.

EXEMPTIONS

The Bylaw would not apply to other types of small bags, such as those used to package fruit, bulk foods, produce, frozen foods, meat, fish, small hardware items (such as nails and bolts), prescription drugs from a pharmacy, clothes after professional laundering or dry cleaning, linens, bedding, tires, large items, and those provided at thrift stores. In addition, this Bylaw does not limit or restrict the sale of bags, including plastic bags, intended for use at the customer's home or business, provided they are sold in packages of multiple bags.

STYROFOAM™ TAKEOUT CONTAINERS

Styrofoam™ is difficult for residents to recycle; it breaks up easily to become scattered litter, and there are many sustainable alternatives in the market that can be recycled, composted, or reused. Planned for November 2021, businesses will be prohibited from selling Prepared Food in any Food Service Ware that contains Polystyrene foam. Polystyrene foam means blown polystyrene and expanded, and extruded foams commonly known as Styrofoam™.

This Styrofoam™ takeout container ban includes all white and coloured polystyrene foam take-out containers and cups, including but not limited to:

Plates | Cups | Bowls | Trays | Cartons | Hinged or Lidded Containers

EXEMPTIONS

Hospitals, or any facility licensed as a community care facility under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act; or prepared food containers that have been filled and sealed outside the City. However, prepared food does not include any raw uncooked food, including meat, poultry, fish, seafood, eggs or vegetables unless provided for consumption without further food preparation. This Bylaw shall not apply to organizations incorporated and in good standing under the Society Act or registered as a charitable society or organization under the federal Income Tax Act for one year after the effective date of this Bylaw.



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

ALTERNATIVES

The City understands that the introduction of the Bylaw will be a significant change for the Surrey business sector including food service providers, retailers, and manufacturers. The City will be leading comprehensive education and awareness activities to support and inform businesses of the new Bylaw requirements to ensure a successful transition from the use and distribution of plastic bags and foam take-out cups and containers to alternative, more sustainable products. To support businesses, we are:

1. Working with You

- We are developing more materials for businesses to ensure compliance, build trust, and smoothly transition away from single use items. We will also be hosting virtual information sessions with business associations and other community partners to answer your questions.

2. Connecting with Suppliers

- We are researching products that are best suited to your needs. We are developing a list of local suppliers available to supply your operations' needs. We are also working with local suppliers to ensure inventory when you need it.

3. Informing the Public

- We are educating the public through the City website, social media, videos, and other advertising to ensure they are aware of the requirements to help you and your staff transition.

4. Aligning with Other Levels of Government

- We are working with the regional, provincial, and federal governments to align the rules and reduce confusion. Our Bylaw is aligned with other local municipalities to avoid confusion.



Most single-use items are not recyclable or difficult to recycle. When looking for alternative checkout bags or takeout containers, they must be recyclable in our blue cart or compostable in our green cart system. By choosing sustainable and accepted items in our recycling or organics system, you are helping to achieve a circular economy and protect our environment.

To help businesses source alternative products, the City recommends speaking to your suppliers about alternatives to plastic checkout bags and foam take-out containers/cups that you may contact to select your new supply. These alternative products must be reusable, recyclable, or compostable as noted below.

PLASTIC CHECKOUT GROCERY BAGS ALTERNATIVES

Do not purchase plastic bags labelled biodegradable or compostable. They are not accepted for composting and are also not recyclable.

Paper checkout bags

- Must be at least 40% recycled content.

Reusable bags (must be able to be reused 100 times)

- Woven plastic bags, made of Polypropylene
- Non-woven plastic bags, made of Polypropylene
- Natural cloth bags

POLYSTYRENE FOAM TAKEOUT CONTAINER ALTERNATIVES

Recyclable plastic takeout containers

- *No compostable plastic takeout containers*

Fibre-based takeout containers

- With no coating (compostable)

Recyclable aluminum takeout containers



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORTING THIS TRANSITION. LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND BUILD A CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

English

This notice contains information that affects you. Please have someone translate it for you.

French

Cet avis contient des informations qui vous concernent. Veuillez SVP demander à quelqu'un de vous le traduire.

Korean

이 문서는 본인에게 영향을 미치는 정보를 담고 있습니다. 한국어로 번역을 부탁드립니다.

Tagalog

Ang abiso na ito ay may impormasyon na makaka-epekto sa iyo. Ipaki-usap sa ibang tao na isalin sa ibang wika ito.

Hindi

इस नोटिस में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है जो आपको प्रभावित करती है। कृपया किसी से इसका अनुवाद करवा लें।

Punjabi

ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਹੜੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ 'ਤੇ ਅਸਰ ਪਾਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਤੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਕਰਵਾਉ।

Chinese

此通告含有可能影響您的重要資料。請找人為您翻譯。

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

rethinkwaste@surrey.ca

surrey.ca/singleuse

Waste Collection Hotline: 604-590-7289