

Prohibited items

Please note there are no storage facilities for any items. Visitors to Council Chamber with any prohibited items will be denied access until the items are properly removed from the area. Backpacks, bags and large purses are subject to visual inspection.



The following items are prohibited inside the Council Chamber: this list is not all-inclusive.

- Food and beverages
- Illegal drugs or substances
- Noisemakers



Firearms and ammunition of any type:

- BB guns
- Compressed air guns
- Firearms
- Flare guns
- Gun lighters
- Parts of guns/firearms
- Replicas of guns or firearms
- Spear guns
- Stun guns/ devices used to emit a shock
- Ammunition



All explosives including:

- Ammunition
- Blasting caps
- Dynamite
- Fireworks
- Flares
- Gunpowder
- Hand grenades
- Plastic explosives



Blades, edged or sharp objects and striking devices:

- Axes and hatchets
- Bows and arrows
- Ice picks
- Knives, sabers, swords or bladed devices of any length greater or equal to 6 cm
- Razor-type blades such as box cutters, utility knives and razor blades not in a cartridge
- Scissors
- Throwing stars
- Brass knuckles
- Crowbars
- Night sticks/billy club



Flammable substances:

- Aerosol sprays
- Fuels, including cooking fuels and flammable liquid fuel
- Gasoline
- Gas torches, including micro-torches and torch lighters



Disabling chemicals and other dangerous items:

- Chlorine compressed gas cylinders, including fire extinguishers
- Mace
- Pepper spray
- Spillable batteries, except those in wheelchairs
- Spray paint
- Tear gas
- Noxious and poisonous substances



Council Chamber Visitor

Screening
Procedures



Council Chamber visitor screening procedures

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of Council, which are generally held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 9:30 a.m. All visitors to City of Calgary facilities are expected to follow the appropriate policies and procedures to ensure the safety and security of everyone working in and visiting our sites. The City of Calgary's Code of Conduct includes a Respectful Workplace Policy as well as a Workplace Violence Policy. Contractors, suppliers, volunteers, and members of the public are expected to adhere to these policies.

Metal detectors

All visitors must pass through a walk-through metal detector and all bags, backpacks and purses will be inspected. To avoid delays, we encourage visitors to arrive early. If you set off the alarm while walking through the metal detector, you'll be subject to further screening with a hand-held wand. You always have the right to refuse the screening, however, you will not be permitted into Council Chamber.

Q: Why is The City making this change?

A: The City regularly reviews the safety and security of City sites with a focus on preventing incidents by identifying opportunities and risks – the safety and security of all visitors, employees and members of Council at City of Calgary buildings and facilities is a top priority. We believe this change poses minimal impact for citizens and provides an additional level of security screening.

Q: Do I have to take off my shoes, belts or jacket?

A: No – you do not need to remove your jacket, belt or shoes. As a general practice, visitors will be asked to empty their pockets prior to passing through the metal detector.

Q: Does this mean it's going to take a long time to get through the door before each meeting?

A: Screening should take approximately 10 to 15 seconds per visitor; however, the number of visitors to Council often varies depending on Council's agenda. We encourage visitors to arrive early, we appreciate your patience.

Q: Is The City restricting bags?

A: The City will continue to allow bags, backpacks and purses into Council Chamber. They are subject to inspection.

Q: Are metal detectors safe?

A: Metal detectors operate at a very low frequency of electromagnetic pulses. There is no exposure to radiation. The electromagnetic levels are lower than you are exposed to on a routine basis from using a cell phone or an automatic garage door opener. If you have a concern, speak with a security guard.

Q: Will it impact my pacemaker?

A: Please advise our security staff of your situation. All security metal detectors are manufactured in compliance with international technical as well as medical standards. However, if you are concerned, there is the option of a secondary screening with a hand-held wand.

Q: I have a medical implant that sets off metal detectors. What is going to happen to me at the gate?

A: Please advise our security staff of your situation. Our detectors are set at levels that meet industry standards and in some cases certain conditions can be accounted for and eliminated as alarm triggers. If the alarm activates, you will need to undergo secondary screening with a hand-held wand.

Q: What if I don't want to pass through the metal detector?

A: If you do not want to go through the walk-through metal detector, you will be directed to a security officer to undergo screening with a hand-held wand.

Q: Do children have to go through the metal detectors?

A: Parents may carry infants and toddlers through the walk-through metal detectors. A child who is able to walk may be asked to walk through on his/her own. If the alarm activates, the child will need to undergo secondary screening with a hand-held wand.

Q: Can I still bring a stroller through the metal detector? What about a wheelchair?

A: People with strollers and those who use wheelchairs will be screened using hand-held wands. If a visitor who uses a mobility device is able to pass through the metal detector without their mobility device, the visitor will be offered the choice of going through the metal detector or being screened with a hand-held wand.

Special circumstances

Service animals: Individuals with service animals must walk through the metal detector with the animal. If the alarm sounds, screeners will manually inspect the individual and the animal.

Religious & Ceremonial items: A religious or ceremonial item including kirpans containing sheaths may not exceed a maximum length of 7.5 inches or 19 cm (maximum length of blade may only be 4 inches or 10 cm), may be brought into Council Chamber by initiated Sikhs. A kirpan must be identified by the individual possessing it as well as other religious or ceremonial items. A kirpan must be concealed and it must remain sheathed while in Council Chamber.

Mobility assistive devices: People who use a mobility device (i.e., wheelchair, crutches, cane) will be inspected using visual and hand-held wand techniques. Those who are able to pass through a metal detector without their mobility device, or whose device will not impact the screening, will be offered the choice of screening technique.

Prosthetics, casts, splints and metal implants: Visitors should advise security staff if they have any of these items. Individuals are required to pass through the metal detector. If required, the individual may be inspected using visual and hand-held wand techniques to identify metal objects.

Medical needs: People with medical conditions such as diabetes, anaphylaxis or severe migraines may enter with needles and other medical instruments that are required for their safety.