

Calgary



Get your business ready

New single-use items bylaw starts Jan. 16, 2024

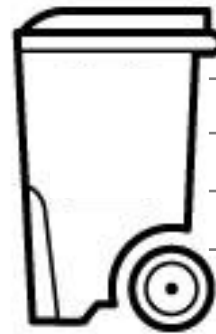
The City of Calgary: Single-use Items Bylaw

Fall 2023

What are Single-use Items?

- Single-use items are items that are designed to only be used once and then thrown away.
- They are often provided for convenience rather than need.
- Some can not be composted or recycled and end up in the landfill.

Single-use items disposed of as garbage each **week** in Calgary...



- 3.5 million plastic shopping bags
- 6.4 million plastic utensils
- 2.4 million takeout containers
- 2.4 million disposable cups

Why does The City of Calgary need a Single-use Items reduction strategy?





- Single-use items are a waste reduction opportunity.
- To reduce lifecycle environmental impacts of single-use items.
- 91% of Calgarians think the City should play a role in reducing waste from single-use items.





Prevent and reduce waste from single-use items regardless of material.



What is the Single-use Items Reduction Strategy?

Bylaw requirements	
 <p>New paper and reusable shopping bags</p>	 <p>Foodware accessories</p>

Voluntary measures	
 <p>Foodservice ware</p>	 <p>Reusable cups</p>

Who does this apply to?

- Businesses who provide new paper or reusable shopping bags and/or foodware accessories.
- Businesses such as convenience stores, retail stores, fast food restaurants, cafes, bars, and coffee shops.

Who is exempt?

- **Registered** charities while providing charitable service.

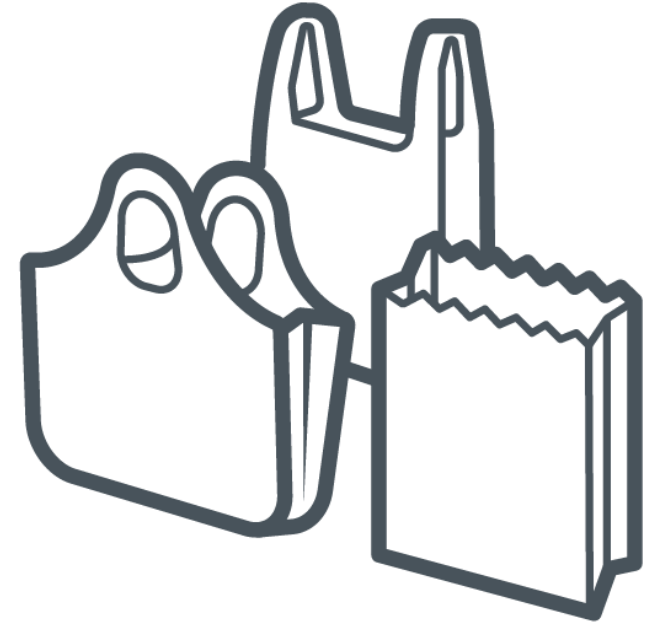
Bylaw - New Shopping Bags

Businesses will need to:

- Charge a minimum fee of 15 cents for new paper shopping bags, and \$1 for reusable bags,
- Only provide bags upon request,
- In 2025, the minimum fees will increase to at least 25 cents for paper and \$2 for reusable bags.

This does not apply to:

- Small paper bags (400 square centimeters or less),
- Bags used to package items such as bulk items, bakery goods, pharmacy goods, to wrap flowers, or to contain meat, poultry or other frozen foods.
- Bags that have been used and returned by a customer for the purpose of being reused by others.



This applies to in-store, take-out, drive-thru, and delivery orders.

Bylaw - New Shopping Bags

Get your business ready:

- Update in-store, online, mobile, and telephone point-of-sale systems,
- Ensure bag fees are shown as a separate line item,
- Train staff to ask customers.
- Use posters to help inform customers.



This applies to in-store, take-out, drive-thru, and delivery orders.

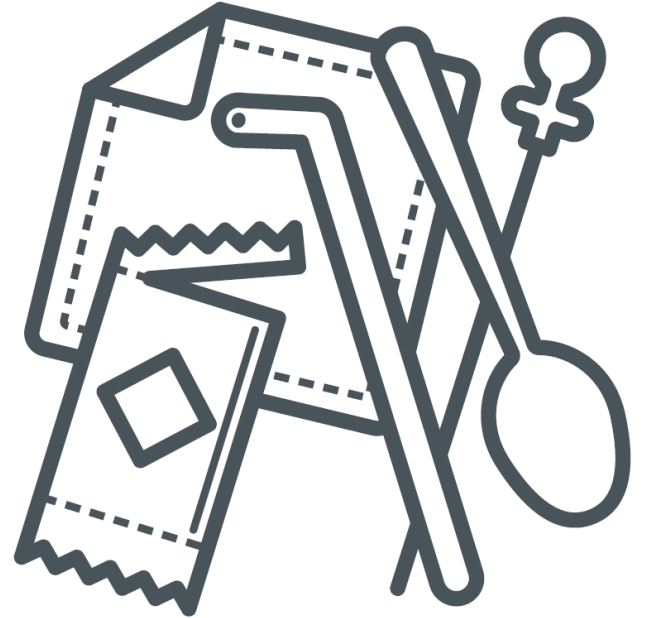
Bylaw - Single-use Foodware Accessories

Businesses will need to:

- Provide single-use foodware accessories by request only.

Only provide foodware accessories if:

- A customer asks, or takes them from a self-serve area,
- Staff asks the customer,
- A customer answers a prompt from an ordering platform.



This applies to in-store, take-out, drive-thru, and delivery orders.

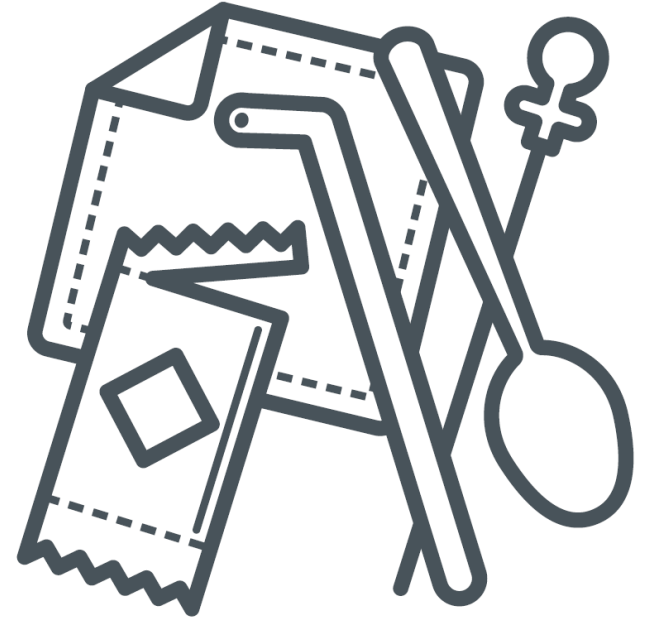
Bylaw - Single-use Foodware Accessories

Examples of foodware accessories are:

- Utensils,
- Straws,
- Stir sticks,
- Splash sticks,
- Pre-packaged condiments,
- Toothpicks,
- Napkins.

Get your business ready:

- Update online, mobile or telephone point-of-sales systems,
- Train staff to ask customers,
- Use posters to help inform customers.



This applies to in-store, take-out, drive-thru, and delivery orders.

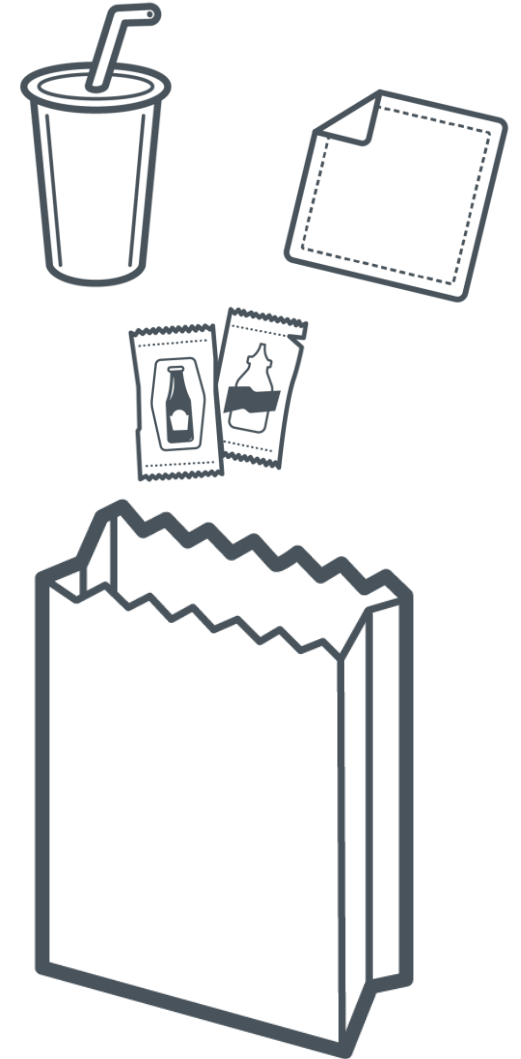
Bylaw – Drive-thru Orders

The bylaw applies to drive-thru orders.

Businesses can:

- Provide shopping bags upon request (minimum fee applies),
- Provide foodware accessories upon request,
- Provide bags less than 400 square centimeters for free i.e., baked good or fry bags.

Ask customers if they need a bag and what foodware accessories they require – even at the drive-thru.





Bylaw – Online food delivery orders

The bylaw applies to online delivery orders.

Minimum requirements:

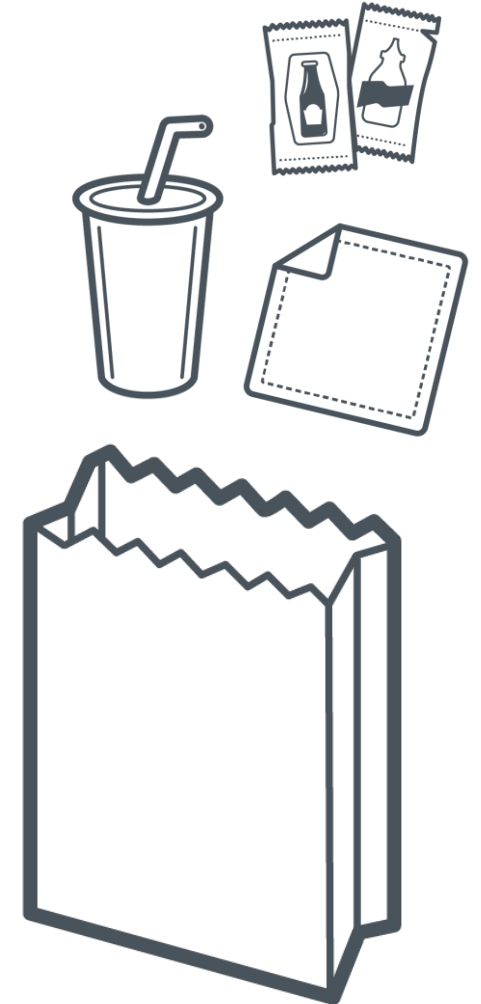
- Indicate that minimum fees apply to all orders where shopping bags are provided.
- Provide customers with the option to include foodware accessories (and how many) in their order. “Opt in”, not “opt out”.

Examples:

Bag Fee 0	CA\$0.15
CA\$1.99 CA\$0.00	CA\$0.00
	CA\$5.53
	CA\$3.50
CA\$4.50	Other

We collect a bag fee for orders placed through DoorDash in accordance with local laws. The amount collected will be always shown on your receipt. DoorDash does not keep collected fees. We remit them to the merchant unless otherwise required by law.

- Utensils, napkins and condiments (select to have included in your order)



The City has developed [Guidelines for Online Delivery Platforms](#) – put your email in the chat to request a copy.

Bylaw – Table setting

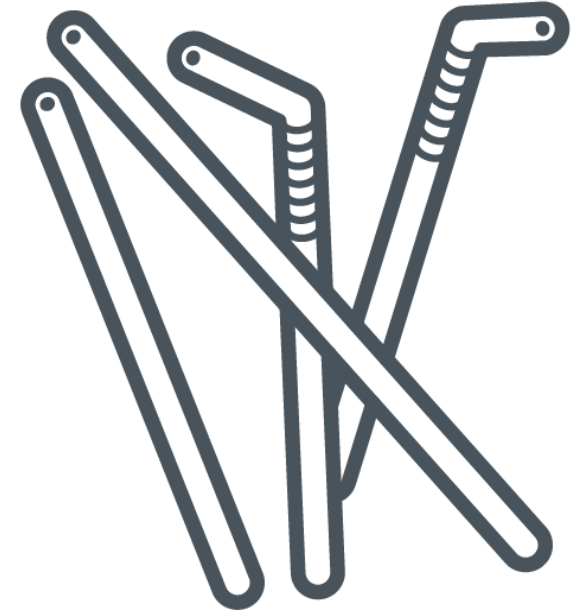
Businesses can:

- Provide reusable utensils at tables.
- Provide single-use utensils on request or at self-serve stations that are in a separate area.







Bylaw – Straws

- Businesses can continue to provide straws on request.
- For those who need a plastic straw, it is possible to buy a package at retail/grocery store and to bring one when dining out.



The City of Calgary vs. Government of Canada

Single-use Item		Approach and Timing	
		The City of Calgary	Government of Canada
	Shopping Bags	Bylaw Jan 16, 2024: Mandatory minimum fee on new paper and reusable shopping bags. Bags available by request only.	Dec 20, 2023: Ban on sale and provision of single-use plastic shopping bags.
	Foodware accessories (utensils, straws, stir sticks, pre-packaged condiments and napkins)	Bylaw Jan 16, 2024: Single-use foodware accessories available by request only.	Dec 20, 2023: Ban on sale and provision of single-use plastic utensils and stir sticks and plastic straws (with exemptions).
	Food serviceware	Voluntary initiatives to reduce waste from single-use food serviceware.	Dec 20, 2023: Ban on sale and provision of single-use food serviceware made of foam, black plastic, PVC and oxo-degradable plastic.
	Disposable cups	Voluntary initiatives to reduce waste from single-use cups.	Dec 20, 2023: Ban on sale and provision of single-use foam cups.
Purpose of Policy		Reducing single-use items by avoiding them, asking for items as needed or choosing reusable options.	Eliminate problematic and hard to recycle plastics.

Primary Packaging vs. Shopping Bags

Primary Packaging



Shopping Bags



- Primary packaging is not included in the Federal regulations or the Single-use Items strategy.
- The Federal regulations only covers plastic shopping bags.
- The City of Calgary's minimum fee applies to all shopping bags (paper and reusable).

What do you do with your extra single-use plastics?

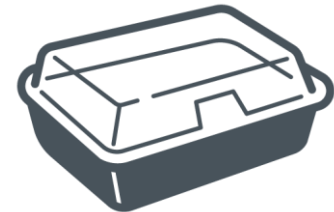
Before December 20, 2023:

- Try to use up plastic items,
- Donate extras to a charity who can use them before the deadline,
- Give extra plastic bags to friends and family to use as bin liners.



After December 20, 2023:

- Contact Environment and Climate Change Canada for questions about the enforcement of the Federal plastic regulations.
- Enforcement of the Federal regulations does not fall within the scope of the City of Calgary.





Beyond the Bylaw – Want to do more?



Shopping Bags

- Encourage customers to bring their own bags,
- Reuse boxes (banana boxes) at check-out,
- Start a reusable bag collection system.

Food Serviceware

- Use reusables for dine-in,
- Switch to reusable utensils,
- Adopt a reusables take-out container and/or cups program,
- Accept customer-provided reusable containers.

Alternatives

- Where reusables are not possible, use single-use items that are accepted in the City’s facilities.

Suggested Alternatives

ITEM	SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES		
	REUSABLE Choose when possible	RECYCLABLE In Calgary's residential recycling programs	COMPOSTABLE In Calgary's residential composting programs
Containers, plates and bowls	<p>Tiffins</p> <p>Steel trays/containers</p>	<p>Paper containers – poly coated</p>	<p>Fibre containers, plates and bowls</p>
	<p>Ceramics</p> <p>Glass jars</p>	<p>Aluminum (foil) containers</p>	<p>Bamboo and leaf plates and bowls</p>
	<p>Reusable takeout container programs</p> <p>Durable plastic containers, plates, and bowls</p>	<p>Plastic containers</p> <p>Paper containers – uncoated</p>	<p>Paper plates and bags</p>
Cups	<p>Reusable travel mugs or cup sharing program</p> <p>Glassware</p> <p>Ceramics</p>	<p>Paper cups uncoated or poly coated</p> <p>Plastic cups</p>	<p>Compostable coffee cups/paper cups (must be labelled as certified compostable)</p>

ITEM	SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES		
	REUSABLE Choose when possible	RECYCLABLE In Calgary's residential recycling programs	COMPOSTABLE In Calgary's residential composting programs
Shopping Bags	<p>Fabric bags (cotton, canvas, Jute, burlap)</p> <p>Nylon/polyester bags</p> <p>Totes/crates</p>	<p>Paper bags (paper/fibre handles)</p> <p>Cardboard boxes</p>	<p>Compostable shopping bags (checkout bags) will not be available after December 20, 2023*</p>
Utensils	<p>Metal</p> <p>Wood</p> <p>Durable plastic</p> <p>Ceramic</p>	<p>Recyclable alternatives are not available (utensils are too small to be sorted by recycling equipment)</p>	<p>Unpainted wood utensils</p> <p>Unpainted bamboo utensils</p>
Straws	<p>Metal straws</p> <p>Glass straws</p> <p>Silicone straws</p>	<p>Recyclable alternatives are not available (straws are too small to be sorted by recycling equipment)</p>	<p>Paper straws</p> <p>Bamboo and sugar cane straws</p> <p>Wheat and pasta straws</p>

- The City will take an education first approach.
- If non-compliant, business owners may be subject to an inspection by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer.





Business Support

Resources for you to print are available online:

- Bylaw guide,
- Posters (available in multiple languages),
- Handouts for staff,
- Suggested Alternatives Guide.

Print Resources Available (contact 311):

- Posters
- Table and till toppers
- Drive Thru prompt
- Guidelines for Online Delivery Platforms

Need help?

calgary.ca/singleuse

Contact **311**

