

Each week in Calgary,
millions of single-use items
are thrown in the garbage.

Why are single-use items a concern?

- Are used once and just thrown away in the garbage in large amounts.
- Often ends up as litter that can harm the environment and wildlife.
- Use up valuable resources and energy to make and dispose of.

As a Calgarian, what can you do about it?

Refuse and reuse. Bring your reusable bags and only request single-use items like paper bags and foodware accessories when you have no other option at the time.

By saying “no thanks”, or using reusable options, you use fewer single-use items. This means that less will be thrown away or end up as litter.

As a business, how do I make the best choice?

Businesses can play a key part in reducing single-use items in Calgary.

All single-use items can be a problem no matter what they are made of. We encourage you to choose reusable products when possible. A suggested alternatives guide is available on calgary.ca/singleuse.



Choose to reuse

Help reduce single-use items.

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

calgary.ca/singleuse



Bylaw requirements at-a-glance

These apply to in-store, take-out and delivery orders.



New reusable and paper shopping bags

What Businesses need to do

Only provide shopping bags if:

- A customer asks for a shopping bag or takes it from a self-serve area,
- Staff asks the customer if they require a shopping bag,
- A customer answers a prompt on an ordering platform.

Are required to charge a:

- **\$0.15** minimum fee on paper bags in 2024 and increasing to **\$0.25** in 2025.
- **\$1** minimum fee on new reusable bags in 2024 and increasing to **\$2** in 2025.

What Calgarians can do

- Bring your own reusable bag or tote when shopping.
- Ask for bags as needed.

Foodware accessories

Including utensils, straws, stir sticks, pre-packaged condiments, napkins, etc.

What Businesses need to do

Only provide foodware accessories if:

- A customer asks for foodware accessories or takes from a self-serve area,
- Staff asks the customer if they require foodware accessories,
- A customer answers a prompt on an ordering platform.

What Calgarians can do

- Ask for these items as needed, when dining in, taking out or ordering food online.
- Say “no thanks” when they are offered and not needed.
- If ordering online, specify items that you don’t need.
- When going out carry a fork, spoon, cloth napkin, and reusable straw in your bag.



Voluntary measures



Food serviceware

Encouraging Businesses to

- Use reusable dishes for dine-in.
- Adopt a reusable takeout container program.
- Use locally recyclable or compostable takeout containers.

Encouraging Calgarians to

- Bring your own reusable takeout container when dining out in case you have leftovers.
- To ask for a reusable dish when dining in.



Reusable cups

Encouraging Businesses to

- Use reusable cups for dine-in.
- Adopt reusable cup share programs.
- Use locally recyclable or compostable single-use cups.

Encouraging Calgarians to

- Bring your own reusable travel mug.
- Ask for a reusable cup when dining in.

