

ZERO
WASTE
VICTORIA

Restarting
APRIL
15th

BYOBAG

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is reducing the amount of single-use checkout bags important?

Prior to implementing action on single-use checkout bags, Victoria residents used approximately 200 bags every year, which equates to 17 million plastic bags. These regulations will continue to reduce waste in our community and our regional landfill.

Why is this happening now?

After staff engaged with business representatives following the Province's approval of the bylaw, Council decided to provide businesses six months to adjust to the changes and use up their remaining plastic bag stock.

What did you hear from businesses through consultation?

Most businesses have continued to encourage the use of reusable bags and remain supportive of the Checkout bag regulation bylaw. Many business owners recognize the importance of protecting the environment through waste reduction initiatives.

What if I forgot my bag?

Businesses may still provide paper bags for a fee of 25 cents, and provide reusable bags at a minimum fee of \$2.00.

Are reusable bags safe to use during the COVID-19?

Yes. Businesses in Victoria continue to allow the use of reusable bags while keeping staff safe during COVID-19, although it is recommended to wash your reusable bags regularly. The BC CDC has specific information for grocery stores, restaurants and other food premises for employers and workers here:

www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/employers-businesses/food-businesses

Who gets to keep the funds collected?

The fee will be charged and kept by the business. These fees can be used to help businesses recover the cost of more sustainable checkout bags and/or communications materials to outline their specific bag policy.

How will the bylaw be enforced?

The City uses a range of enforcement from education to fines. Our intent is support business transition to the requirements of the bylaw. If penalties are necessary, the fines the City may use are consistent with other City bylaws.



I ♥ reusable

Can residents continue to use plastic bags that they already have after the bylaw comes in effect?

The bylaw regulates business practices and states that new single-use plastic bags cannot be distributed to customers after April 15th. Residents can continue to reuse their existing plastic bags.

Is the City of Victoria planning to ban other single-use items, such as foam containers and drinking straws?

The City is currently conducting reviews to regulate other single-use items. Businesses will be consulted in advance of any other bylaws coming into effect.

What are some examples of reusable checkout bags?

There are many types of reusable checkout bags including:

- Cotton or recycled cotton
- Other natural fabrics (e.g. hemp, jute)
- Synthetic fabrics like nylon, polyester and polypropylene (non-woven and woven polypropylene)

Are biodegradable bags allowed?

No. Compostable and biodegradable options are problematic alternatives to conventional single-use items because they can contaminate recycling streams and do not break down effectively at compost facilities.

What types of businesses are covered by the Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw?

All businesses operating within the City of Victoria are subject to the Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



victoria.ca/reusablebags



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