

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



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VICTORIA

On September 5, 2024, the City of Victoria adopted the Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw (No. 23-013) to limit the distribution of single-use items and encourage the use of reusable products.

The Bylaw primarily impacts food and beverage service businesses within the City of Victoria.

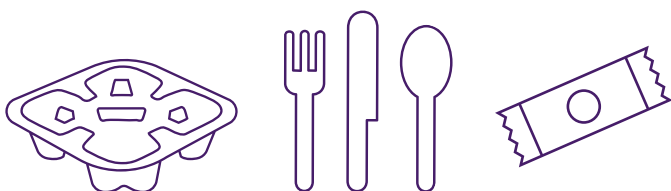
The Bylaw will be phased in between December 2024 and March 2026 and complements federal and provincial restrictions on single-use plastics.

More than 220,000 single-use items are thrown away in Victoria every day, including cups, containers and utensils.

Phase One

As of December 5, 2024, businesses can only distribute single-use food service ware accessories by request or at self-serve stations. The business can ask, the customer can ask, or a self-serve station can be provided.

All accessories are subject to the bylaw, regardless of what they are made from (plastic, wood, paper, etc.).



Single-use food service ware accessories included in this bylaw are:

- Cutlery, chopsticks
- Cold beverage cup lids* (hot beverage lids do not need to be requested)
- Straws, stir sticks, drink plugs, drink trays*, cup sleeves
- Napkins, condiments, seasoning packages

*New items not already included in the list of by-request food service ware accessories under the provincial Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation.

Businesses may need to update their online and mobile point-of-sale systems to give customers a way to request these accessories.

Businesses also need to ensure they comply with provincial and federal single-use regulations.

The following is banned under the Government of Canada's Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations:

- Single-use plastic cutlery
- Single-use plastic stir sticks
- Single-use plastic straws
- Polystyrene, PVC, black coloured plastic, and oxo-degradable plastic food service ware

Under B.C.'s Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation:

- Compostable plastic take-out containers and cups
- Compostable plastic cutlery
- Compostable plastic film wrap for prepared food



Phase Two

Starting March 5, 2026, businesses will be required to use only reusable food service ware products for dine-in services. Front-of-house staff should ask customers at the point of sale if they will be dining in or taking their order to go.

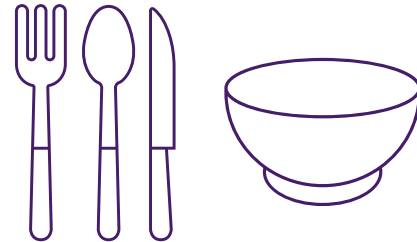
Reusable food service ware means:

- Plates, bowls, cups, condiment containers, cutlery and other food or beverage service ware that is made of durable materials such as ceramic, aluminum, glass or plastic
- Products that are designed to be washed, sanitized and used repeatedly in accordance with applicable health and safety regulations

- Paper food wrappers or paper sleeves (e.g., french fry bags) are still permitted for dine-in customers
- Reusable products for dine-in does not apply to pre-packaged food or beverages prepared either on- or off-premises
- Plastic labelled as compostable is banned for prepared food and beverages under the provincial regulation
- Businesses that face insurmountable barriers to sanitizing reusable food service ware on site can apply for an exemption subject to approval by the City



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Education and Compliance

The City's initial focus is on education and awareness about the bylaw while working with businesses to promote compliance.

For those that remain non-compliant, the bylaw states that an individual can be fined between \$50 and \$500, while a corporation can be fined between \$100 and \$10,000. These amounts are consistent with other City bylaws.

More Information

The complete bylaw, business toolkit and a detailed list of commonly asked questions are available online at **victoria.ca/reduce**.

