

# CHECKOUT BAGS

## FEES

Businesses are free to decide which types of checkout bags to offer, however can no longer provide plastic, compostable plastic, or non-recycled paper checkout bags.

If customers require a bag, they can only be offered according to the following fee schedule\*

**Customers own bag:** Free!

**Recycled Paper Bag:** \$0.75 each

**Reusable Bag:** \$2.75 each

## EXEMPTIONS

Single-use bags plastic or paper can still be provided free of charge to package the following:

- Loose bulk items (such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grain or candy)
- Loose small hardware items such as nails and bolts
- Frozen foods such as meat, poultry or fish, whether pre-packaged or not
- Flowers or potted plants
- Prepared foods or bakery goods that are not pre-packaged
- Transporting live fish
- Prescription drugs received from a pharmacy
- Clothing after professional laundering or dry cleaning
- or if the business deems a plastic or paper bag is required because of:
  - customer's disability or medical reason
  - financial hardship to the customer.

*\* Minimum fees set by the bylaw; Businesses may charge more.*

*\* Fees collected are kept by the business.*

# THE FINE PRINT

- **A reusable bag is defined as:** A bag with handles that is for the purpose of transporting goods from a Business and that is designed and manufactured to be capable of at least 100 multiple-time uses, and primarily made of washable fabric.
- **Recycled Paper Bags:** Must contain at least 40% recycled paper content, and has a reference printed on the outside of the bag to the applicable amount of recycled content with the word "recyclable".

# DID YOU KNOW?

- Compostable and biodegradable plastic checkout bags are prohibited due to the processing difficulties they pose to local composting facilities and their potentially misleading claims of environmental superiority.
- In 2020, an estimated 1.89 million plastic checkout bags were used in Squamish. This does not include bags reused for garbage or other purposes.
- Paper bags have higher greenhouse gas emissions than plastic due to the way in which they are manufactured and transported.

In addition, paper can produce methane (a potent greenhouse gas) when breaking down. It is estimated that the production of paper bags has three times the environmental and greenhouse gas impact than the production of plastic bags. Therefore, it is crucial to reduce the consumption of all single-use bags, not just plastic.

# SINGLE-USE ITEMS REDUCTION BYLAW

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The goal of the bylaw is to substantially reduce (and ultimately eliminate) the distribution of single-use items in Squamish beginning with checkout bags, straws and utensils.
- The fee scale encourages customers to bring their own bag, reducing the consumption of all types of single-use bags.
- The bylaw applies to all businesses who serve beverages and/or provide checkout bags.



# SQUAMISH

HARDWIRED for ADVENTURE

Learn more: [squamish.ca/reduce-single-use](https://squamish.ca/reduce-single-use)  
[zerowaste@squamish.ca](mailto:zerowaste@squamish.ca)

# UTENSILS

Plastic utensils are often distributed when not needed, and can be replaced by reusable utensils, or utensils made from compostable materials (though not compostable plastic).

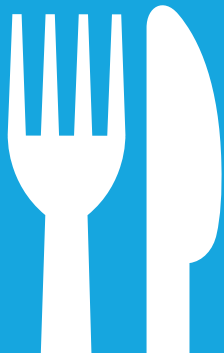
The bylaw requires that businesses use utensils that are not plastic (which also include compostable plastics). Reusable utensils, or single use wooden utensils are both acceptable alternatives.

The bylaw applies to all businesses who distribute utensils with the purchase of food, and does not apply to utensils bought in bulk packages.

## WHAT ARE PLASTIC UTENSILS?

A plastic utensil (made with plastic, biodegradable plastic or compostable plastic) includes a:

- spoon
- fork
- knife
- chopstick
- stir stick



# STRAWS

Straws cannot be recycled and end up in the garbage after a single use. They are a convenience, but at a great cost.

The bylaw requires that businesses work to reduce the number of straws provided to customers, and seek out alternative approaches where possible.

Under the bylaw, businesses are no longer allowed to widely distribute plastic straws. Businesses may provide paper straws and may provide an accessible plastic single-use straw, only if a customer is first asked if they need one.

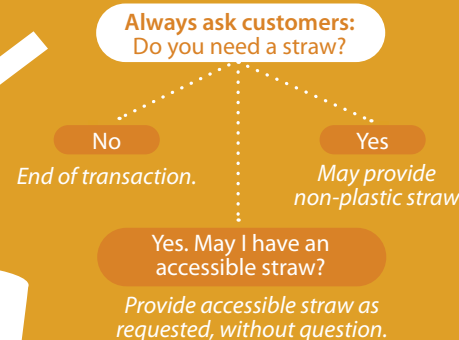
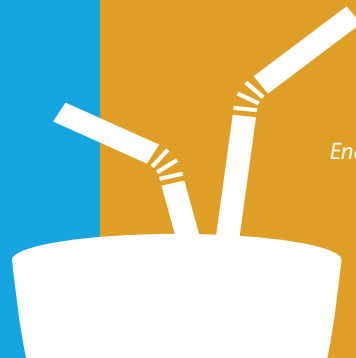
Compostable and biodegradable plastic straws are prohibited due to the processing difficulties they pose to current local composting facilities and their potentially misleading claims of environmental superiority.

## ACCESSIBLE STRAWS

Some customers require a straw as an accessibility tool.

### Accessible Straws are:

- Plastic
- Bendable
- Individually wrapped
- Not considered a choking hazard or injury risk
- Easy to clean
- Safe at high temperatures
- Always available upon request



# EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE

Expanded Polystyrene Food Service (commonly known as Styrofoam) containers are difficult to recycle and reuse, and can easily be replaced by reusable or recyclable containers.

The bylaw requires that businesses use containers for food packaged locally that does not contain expanded polystyrene.

Under the bylaw, businesses are no longer allowed to distribute expanded polystyrene containers for food that is packaged in Squamish.

Exemptions: Polyesterene foam service ware can be offered, provided or sold for the following purposes:

- Used for uncooked meat, poultry, seafood or other food that requires further preparation
- Prepared food packed off-site outside of the District of Squamish

## REFUSE REUSE REDUCE

