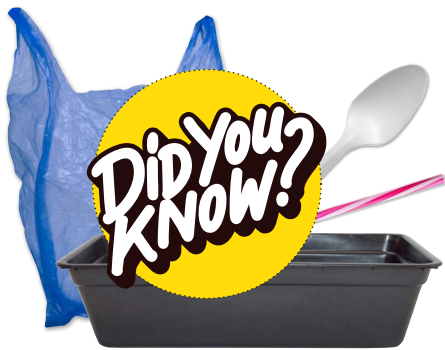


Good. Better. Best.



Single-Use Alternatives Guide

How to reduce your use of single-use items



On December 20, 2023, plastic checkout bags, cutlery, difficult to recycle containers (including black plastic), stir sticks and straight straws were banned for sale and distribution across Canada. Reusable alternatives are the best, most sustainable option. Studies show reusable products have the lowest environmental impact when used multiple times.



Plastics labelled PET (#1), HDPE (#2) and PP (#5) are the easiest plastics to recycle. These plastics are readily accepted in most blue box programs and can be sold and turned into new products. Avoid foamed polystyrene cups, plates and containers.



Plastics labelled as compostable, biodegradable or bioplastic are not accepted in most green bin and blue box programs. Many of these plastics don't break down in composting facilities and cannot be recycled.



Paper-based products are accepted in most green bin programs as long as they don't have a plastic coating or lining.

Learn more about reducing single-use items or share your success story at york.ca/ReduceWaste










For more information email SM4RTLiving@york.ca or call 1-866-665-6752.


York Region

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Choose the single-use alternatives that work best for your business.

Single-Use Item	Single-Use Alternatives		
 AVOID	 GOOD	 BETTER	 BEST
 <p>Plastic Check-Out Bags</p>	 <p>Upon request provide 100% paper bags like a brown paper bag.</p>	 <p>Upon request provide reused cardboard boxes, durable/reusable, washable bags or bins for a fee.</p>	 <p>Encourage customers to bring their own reusable bags</p>
 <p>Cold Beverage Cups with Plastic Lining or Wax Coating</p>	 <p>Plastic cups and lids made from recyclable plastic like PET (#1), HDPE (#2) and PP (#5).</p>	 <p>Provide reusable cup sharing programs*, deposit return systems or reusable cups that can be recycled.</p>	 <p>Provide durable, reusable, washable cups for onsite dining or allow customers to bring their own.</p>
 <p>Condiment Packages</p>	 <p>Upon request serve in paper-based containers.</p>	 <p>Upon request serve directly on food or serve to customers in durable, reusable, washable containers.</p>	 <p>Upon request provide refillable bottle/container so customer can serve themselves, like a ketchup or mustard bottle.</p>












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 <p>Plastic Cutlery and Utensils</p>	 <p>Upon request only provide uncoated wood-fibre utensils or uncoated bamboo utensils.</p>	 <p>Provide reusable utensil sharing programs* and/or deposit return systems.</p>	 <p>Provide durable, reusable, washable utensils for onsite dining and/or allow customers to bring their own utensils.</p>
 <p>Foam, Plastic-lined or Coated Hot Beverage Cups</p>	 <p>Use 100% paper-based cups; no lining or coating.</p>	 <p>Offer reusable mug sharing programs* and/or deposit return systems.</p>	 <p>Provide durable, reusable, washable cups for onsite dining and/or allow customers to bring their own cups.</p>
 <p>Bleached/ Dyed Napkins</p>	 <p>Provide 100% paper napkins in dispensers.</p>	 <p>Upon request, provide 100% paper, unbleached, unwrapped napkins.</p>	 <p>Provide reusable fabric napkins for onsite dining.</p>


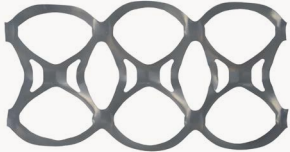
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Single-Use Item	Single-Use Alternatives		
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 <p data-bbox="207 732 440 842">Foam, Plastic-lined or Coated Plates and Bowls</p>	 <p data-bbox="505 705 753 873">Offer 100% paper-based plates and bowls; no lining or coating and/or plastic plates or bowls made from recyclable plastic like PET (#1), HDPE (#2) and PP (#5).</p>	 <p data-bbox="818 747 1065 831">Provide reusable dishware sharing programs* and/or deposit return systems.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1130 722 1390 858">Provide durable, reusable, washable plates and bowls for onsite dining and/or allow customers to bring their own plates and bowls.</p>
 <p data-bbox="224 1199 423 1310">Flexible, Plastic Ring Carriers for Beverages</p>	 <p data-bbox="505 1184 756 1325">Provide 100% paper-based cartons with dividers, 100% paper-based clips/formed rings or reusable plastic clips.</p>	 <p data-bbox="818 1209 1081 1293">Offer durable, cardboard cartons with dividers and/or reusable bags with dividers.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1130 1199 1398 1310">Provide deposit return cartons and/or allow customers to bring their own reusable bags or cartons.</p>
 <p data-bbox="220 1667 428 1698">Plastic Stir Sticks</p>	 <p data-bbox="505 1671 740 1698">Use wood-fibre stir sticks.</p>	 <p data-bbox="818 1656 1065 1713">Use edible stir sticks made from pasta or licorice.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1130 1646 1398 1730">Offer durable, reusable, washable utensils for stirring like a metal spoon.</p>












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<p>Plastic Straws <i>(Federal ban requires people needing flexible plastic straws to bring their own.)</i></p>	<p>Use strawless, recyclable plastic lids made from PET (#1), HDPE (#2) or PP (#5)</p>	<p>Upon request provide 100% paper straws (no lining/coating), or edible straw options like licorice or pasta.</p>	<p>Allow customers to bring their own straws.</p>
			
<p>Foam, Plastic-lined or Coated Takeout Containers</p>	<p>Use 100% paper-based containers, no lining/coating; aluminum containers with cardboard lids and/or heat-safe plastic containers made from recyclable materials like PP (#5).</p>	<p>Offer reusable container sharing programs* and/or deposit return systems.</p>	<p>Provide durable, reusable, washable containers for onsite dining and allow customers to bring their own containers.</p>

*Sharing programs are different than deposit return systems as some require memberships while others operate free of charge with customers borrowing, returning and even donating items.

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