

CUSTOMER Q&A



BYLAW

- Q.** What is this Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw all about?
- A.** Waste from single-use items creates a lot of litter and causes long lasting environmental damage. The City of Spruce Grove is taking action to reduce this kind of waste by introducing a bylaw which bans plastic checkout bags, polystyrene serving ware, and plastic straws.
- Q.** What about plastic utensils, stir sticks, and other single-use items? Why aren't those banned?
- A.** This bylaw is the first step into single-use items reduction for the City. Once implemented, the City will explore other ways to reduce other single-use items that have alternatives. The federal government is also planning a ban on the distribution of specific single-use items that will come into effect in the next couple of years that will compliment this bylaw.

Some single-use items are necessary and serve useful purposes, like in the case of some medical requirements such as face masks. When possible and appropriate, using reusable masks is preferable to the single-use options.

BAGS

- Q.** Why do I have to bring my own bag?
- A.** Because pollution from plastic is a big problem, there is a new bylaw that bans single-use items like plastic checkout bags. By bringing your own bag, you are helping to reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills.
- Q.** I can never remember to bring my bags with me... what can I do?
- A.** If you forget your reusable bag, you can buy one. Some tips to remember your bags include:
- Keep them in your vehicle or pocket
 - Include 'bags' as the first item on your shopping list
 - Leave them by the front door

- Q.** Are businesses going back to paper bags?
- A.** No. Everyone is encouraged to use reusable bags where they can. The bylaw encourages businesses to sell paper bags for a 15 cent minimum charge.
- Q.** What about COVID-19? Is it still safe to use my reusable bags?
- A.** Information about COVID-19 transmission continues to evolve. Research suggests that transmission from touching surfaces is not thought to be a common way that COVID-19 spreads.

POLYSTYRENE

- Q.** Are the alternatives to polystyrene really any better for the environment?
- A.** There are many reusable, recyclable, and compostable options for food and take-out containers – all of which are preferable to polystyrene.

STRAWS

- Q.** Why can't I get a plastic straw?
- A.** Plastic straws are banned under the new bylaw – with some exceptions. Restaurant and food vendors are required to stock flexible straws individually wrapped in paper so people who need a straw for accessibility purposes to consume beverages can do so.

**CUSTOMERS CAN CONTACT THE CITY
IF THEY HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS**

GREENTeam@SPRUCEGROVE.ORG
