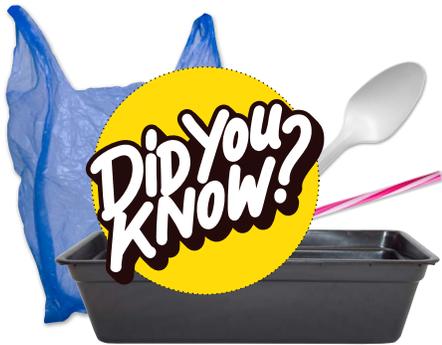


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## Single-Use Alternatives Guide

### 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](https://york.ca/ReduceWaste)



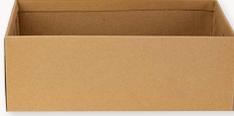
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**York Region**

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

Single-Use Item	Single-Use Alternatives		
 <b>AVOID</b>	 <b>GOOD</b>	 <b>BETTER</b>	 <b>BEST</b>
 <p data-bbox="215 810 431 884"><b>Plastic Check-Out Bags</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="500 804 764 888">Upon request provide 100% paper bags like a brown paper bag.</p>	 <p data-bbox="816 789 1084 898">Upon request provide reused cardboard boxes, durable/reusable, washable bags or bins for a fee.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1130 804 1360 888">Encourage customers to bring their own reusable bags</p>
 <p data-bbox="199 1220 448 1329"><b>Cold Beverage Cups with Plastic Lining or Wax Coating</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="500 1230 773 1314">Plastic cups and lids made from recyclable plastic like PET (#1), HDPE (#2) and PP (#5).</p>	 <p data-bbox="816 1220 1084 1329">Provide reusable cup sharing programs*, deposit return systems or reusable cups that can be recycled.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1130 1220 1398 1329">Provide durable, reusable, washable cups for onsite dining or allow customers to bring their own.</p>
 <p data-bbox="191 1692 456 1728"><b>Condiment Packages</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="500 1682 727 1738">Upon request serve in paper-based containers.</p>	 <p data-bbox="816 1640 1044 1780">Upon request serve directly on food or serve to customers in durable, reusable, washable containers.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1130 1640 1401 1780">Upon request provide refillable bottle/container so customer can serve themselves, like a ketchup or mustard bottle.</p>

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 <p><b>Plastic Cutlery and Utensils</b></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><b>Foam, Plastic-lined or Coated Hot Beverage Cups</b></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><b>Bleached/ Dyed Napkins</b></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>

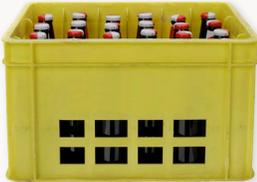
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 <p data-bbox="207 730 440 842"><b>Foam, Plastic-lined or Coated Plates and Bowls</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="505 701 753 873">Offer 100% paper-based plates and bowls; no lining or coating and/or plastic plates or bowls made from recyclable plastic like PET (#1), HDPE (#2) and PP (#5).</p>	 <p data-bbox="821 743 1065 831">Provide reusable dishware sharing programs* and/or deposit return systems.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1133 716 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"><b>Flexible, Plastic Ring Carriers for Beverages</b></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="821 1209 1081 1297">Offer durable, cardboard cartons with dividers and/or reusable bags with dividers.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1133 1199 1398 1310">Provide deposit return cartons and/or allow customers to bring their own reusable bags or cartons.</p>
 <p data-bbox="224 1667 423 1696"><b>Plastic Stir Sticks</b></p>	 <p data-bbox="505 1667 740 1696">Use wood-fibre stir sticks.</p>	 <p data-bbox="821 1654 1065 1713">Use edible stir sticks made from pasta or licorice.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1133 1640 1398 1728">Offer durable, reusable, washable utensils for stirring like a metal spoon.</p>

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<p><b>Plastic Straws</b> <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><b>Foam, Plastic-lined or Coated Takeout Containers</b></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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