

Guide to single-use plastic items allowed and prohibited

Federal regulations

The Government of Canada have adopted regulations prohibiting the sale and offer of some single-use plastic products.

Beside is a summary of the targeted articles, sold at Carrousel.

Effective dates














December 20, 2023

The manufacture and import of the banned items are prohibited since December 20, 2022.

✓ Allowed

✓ Allowed or prohibited according to some criteria or applications, see reverse.

✗ Prohibited

	Checkout bags, including those made of degradable plastic	✗
	Bags for carrying food in the store (e.g. fruits and vegetables)	✓
	Reusable plastic shopping bags	✓
	Stir sticks	✗
	Cutlery	✓
	Straws	✓
	Foam foodservice ware (♻️ expanded or extruded)	✓
	Food containers made of non-black ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ plastic non-expanded or extruded ♻️ plastic	✓
	Foam food containers and tableware made of mousse (♻️ expansé ou extrudé)	✗
	Black food containers for food that is ready to be consumed	✗
	Black food containers for food to be reheated or not ready to eat	✓
	Foodservice ware made of compostable plastic (including PLA)	✓
	Tableware, cups and lids made of non-black plastic ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️, non-expanded or extruded ♻️ plastic	✓

Notes

Reusable plastic shopping bags

Bags meeting the following criteria are accepted:

- don't break if they are used to carry 10 kg over a distance of 53 m 100 times;
- don't break if they are washed in accordance with the washing procedures specified for a single domestic wash (standard ISO 6130).

Cutlery

Plastic utensils meeting the following criteria are accepted as they are considered reusable:

- not made of polystyrene or polyethylene;
- can tolerate 100 wash cycles in a household dishwasher.

Straws

Plastic straws meeting the following criteria are accepted as they are considered reusable:

- not made of polystyrene or polyethylene;
- can tolerate 100 wash cycles in a household dishwasher.


Some exceptions will be in effect for flexible straws. See the federal regulation on this subject.

Foam foodservice ware (expanded or extruded)

They are allowed only if they are trays and are used to package food that is not ready to be eaten (e.g. vegetables, meat, fish)

Black food containers

Only black containers meeting the following criteria are accepted:

- contain foods that need to be prepared (baking in the oven, heating in a microwave or toaster) before they can be eaten or meat and fish that are not ready to eat or vegetables;
- are not made of foam ( expanded or extruded) or PVC.

Compostable plastic foodservice ware

It is important to differentiate between compostable plastic, such as PLA, and «oxo-degradable plastic», which is prohibited. Also note that all black packaging is prohibited, even if it is compostable plastic.

Source: Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations - Technical guidelines (<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-reducing-waste/reduce-plastic-waste/single-use-plastic-technical-guidance.html>)

This document was last updated on September 6, 2023.