

HOW WE SHOP IS CHANGING

SHOPPING BAG CHANGES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2022

Why are the minimum fees on shopping bags set at \$0.15 in 2022 and \$0.25 in 2023 for paper shopping bags and \$1 in 2022 and \$2 in 2023 for reusable shopping bags?

The fees structure was established to comply with regulations set by the Provincial Government under the *Community Charter*. Harmonized fees across the province enable consistent implementation by businesses, while providing clarity to consumers.

Who keeps the fees charged on shopping bags?

The business providing the shopping bag during the checkout process retains the fees. Revenue from shopping bag fees are not remitted to the City. The City of Chilliwack does not have the regulatory authority from the Provincial Government to collect fees on single-use items.

Are fees on paper and reusable shopping bags subject to GST and PST?

Yes.

Do the minimum fees on paper and reusable shopping bags have to be communicated to customers?

Yes. The amount of the fees must be displayed as a separate line item on any receipts provided to customers by using wording such as “paper bag” and “reusable bag”.

Does the minimum fee on reusable shopping bags apply to bags that customers already own and bring to the store?

No. The fees only apply to new reusable shopping bags sold to customers.

Can I charge more than the minimum fees on paper and reusable shopping bags?

Yes. Businesses can choose to charge more than the minimum fees as part of their own business practices.

Can I subsidize the cost of paper or reusable shopping bags and provide them for free to my customers?

No. The minimum fees must be charged on all new paper and reusable shopping bags. The exception to this rule is that businesses are allowed to provide free paper and reusable shopping bags if they have previously been used by a customer and brought back to the store (e.g. a “take-a-bag, leave-a-bag” shopping bag sharing program).



✗ PLASTIC



✓ PAPER



✓ REUSABLE

SHOPPING BAGS CONTINUED



Can I offer my customers a discount for bringing their own reusable shopping bags?

Yes. However, organizations that offer discounts to reward customers for bringing their own reusable shopping bags are still required to charge fees on all new paper and reusable shopping bags distributed.

What kinds of paper shopping bags can I sell to my customers under the bylaw, and how should they be labeled?

Paper shopping bags must contain at least 40% recycled paper content. The outside of the bag must display the words “recyclable” and “made of 40% recycled content” or “made of 40% post-consumer recycled content,” or a higher amount if applicable.

What types of reusable shopping bags are allowed within the bylaw?

Reusable shopping bags must be designed and manufactured to be capable of at least 100 uses, and be primarily made of fabric (e.g. cotton, canvas, jute, burlap, nylon, polyester, recycled polyethylene terephthalate, woven and non-woven polypropylene).

Does the City of Chilliwack approve or certify shopping bags for compliance with the Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw?

No. It is up to business license holders and manufacturers to ensure the shopping bags they distribute meet the bylaw requirements.

What types of bags are exempt from the Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw?

The Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw exempts:

- Small paper bags that are less than 15 centimeters by 20 centimeters when flat.
- Bags used to protect bakery goods that are not pre-packaged prior to the point of sale.
- Bags used to wrap flowers or potted plants.
- Bags used to protect newspapers or other printed material intended to be left at the customer’s residence or place of business.
- Bags used to transport prescription drugs received from a pharmacy.
- Bags used to contain loose bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy or loose, small hardware items such as nails and bolts.
- Bags used to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, poultry, or fish, whether pre-packaged prior to the point of sale or not.
- Bags used to transport live fish.
- Bags used to transport linens, bedding, or other similar large items that cannot easily fit in a Paper Shopping Bag or Reusable Shopping Bag.
- Bags used to protect clothes after professional laundering or dry cleaning.

