

# Town of Qualicum Beach

## Single-Use Item Bylaw No. 723



### What is the Bylaw about

Starting July 1, 2019 businesses in the Town of Qualicum Beach cannot provide customers with single-use plastic checkout bags, or single use plastic straws. These changes are outlined in Town of Qualicum Beach Single-Use Item Regulation Bylaw No. 723, 2018. The new bylaw intends to reduce plastic litter and waste in our community and landfill. Attached is a certified copy of the adopted bylaw.



### Items not permitted

- Plastic Bags. The bylaw defines "Plastic Bag" as any bag made with any amount of plastic, including biodegradable plastic, but does not include a Reusable Bag.
- Plastic Straws. The bylaw defines "Plastic Straw" as a straw made primarily of plastic, including biodegradable plastic, but is not a Reusable Straw or a Compostable Straw.

### What types of bags are permitted?

- Reusable bags - which are defined as those with handles that are designed and manufactured to have a minimum lifetime of 100 uses and are at least 2.25 mils (0.571 millimetres) thick, if made of plastic.
- Compostable bags - which degrades by biological processes; leaves no distinguishable or toxic residue; and displays one of more of the marks of conformity as shown in Figure 1: Compostable Marks of Conformity
- Paper bags - provided they do not contain any plastic.
- The bylaw has exceptions for single use plastic bags that are specifically used to:
  - package loose bulk items that are not prepackaged, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, and candy;
  - contain small hardware items that are not prepackaged, such as nails, screws, nuts, and bolts;
  - contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, poultry or fish, which may be prepackaged;
  - wrap flowers or potted plants;
  - protect prepared foods or bakery goods that are not prepackaged;
  - contain prescription drugs and over the counter medications; or
  - protect clothes after professional laundering or dry-cleaning.



Figure 1: Compostable Marks of Conformity

### What type of straws are permitted?

- Straws made from durable materials, including metal, glass, silicone or bamboo, but are not made primarily of plastic other than silicone plastic.
- Compostable straws that:
  - Degrades by biological processes;
  - Leaves no visible, distinguishable or toxic residue; and
  - Displays one or more compostable mark(s) of conformity, as shown in Figure 1: Compostable Marks of Conformity.

### What are the best bag alternatives?

The ideal bag is made from sustainable materials, is durable and is easily recycled or re-purposed at the end of its useful life.

### Bylaw Education and Enforcement

The bylaw will regulate businesses that provide single-use plastic bags, not customers.

The Town's current focus is on developing education and awareness related to the bylaw, and will continue to work with retailers to promote compliance.

The bylaw comes into effect on July 1, 2019 after which time the bylaw states that a person can be fined between \$50 and \$5,000.

