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## WEST COAST SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REGULATIONS

# What Businesses Need to Know

The following information has been developed to help businesses and staff answer questions about new single-use plastics regulation bylaws in Tofino and Ucluelet.



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## WHAT'S NEW

Starting June 8, 2019  
(World Oceans Day)

businesses in Tofino and Ucluelet cannot provide customers with single-use plastic checkout bags or plastic straws.

The new bylaw intends to reduce single-use plastic waste in our communities, landfill and the marine environment.

The Districts' current focus is on developing education and awareness. We will continue to work with retailers to promote compliance before moving to enforcement.

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## Requirements for Businesses

### No More Plastic Bags:

Businesses may only provide plastic bags for the following purposes:

- package loose bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, and candy;
- package loose small hardware items such as nails and bolts;
- contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, poultry, or fish, whether pre-packaged or not;
- wrap flowers or potted plants;
- protect prepared foods or bakery goods that are not pre-packaged;
- contain prescription drugs received from a pharmacy; and
- protect linens, bedding, or other similar large items that cannot easily fit in a Reusable Bag.

### No Free Paper or Reusable Bags:

In order to discourage the proliferation of paper and reusable bags, businesses must first ask whether the customer needs a bag, and charge a minimum of 25 cents per paper bag, and \$2 per reusable bag.

NOTE: There is no minimum fee for small paper bags (less than 15 centimetres by 20 centimetres when flat).

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# Reusable Bags

The Bylaw defines a reusable bag as a “bag with handles that is for the purpose of transporting items purchased by the customer from a business, and is designed and manufactured to be capable of at least 100 uses”.

The ideal reusable bag is made from sustainable materials, is durable and is easily recycled or reused. There are many types of reusable bags that are designed to be capable of at least 100 uses. Examples of durable and reusable bag materials include:

- Synthetic fabrics like nylon, polyester and polypropylene
- Cotton or recycled cotton
- Other natural fabrics (e.g. hemp, jute)

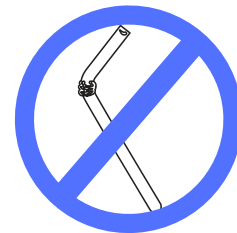
# Plastic Straws

Businesses will no longer be able to provide plastic straws to customers.

“Plastic straws” include biodegradable or compostable plastic as these materials contaminate existing recycling streams and don’t adequately decompose in a landfill or the environment.

## Alternatives to Plastic Straws:

Many suppliers offer a range of reusable drinking straws, including metal, glass, silicone and bamboo. Paper straws also offer a compostable option.



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# FAQ

## Why plastic bags and straws?

The Districts of Tofino and Ucluelet are concerned about other single-use items and the waste that they generate, too. We are making one important small step at a time to reduce the impacts of single-use plastics in our communities and oceans, with an eye to regulating other single-use items in the future.

## Will this be phased in? How much time do I have?

We expect the Bylaws to be effective as of June 8, 2019, with a phase-in period to allow businesses to use up stock, educate customers and find new suppliers. Enforcement provisions (fines) will come into effect January 1, 2020.

## What do I do with my existing stock of plastic bags?

Businesses are able to use up existing plastic bag stock during the 6-month phase-in period. Surfrider representatives will also be visiting all businesses to collect and recycle any unused stock by World Oceans Day (June 8, 2019).

## What are the fines?

After a phase-in period of 6 months, the Districts will begin administering fines by January 2020 if required. Fines will range between \$50 and \$300, depending on the offence and whether your business is located in Tofino or Ucluelet.

