

West Coast Single-Use Plastics Regulation

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.



WHAT'S NEW

Starting April 14th, 2021, businesses in Tofino and Ucluelet can no longer provide customers with polystyrene takeaway containers, in addition to single-use plastic straws and checkout bags. Please see the bylaws for amendments made regarding accessibility and plastic straws for people who require them.

WHY

These bylaws intend to reduce single-use plastic waste in our communities, landfill, and marine environment and mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions associated with plastic production and usage.

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

REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESSES

No More Polystyrene Foam Takeaway Containers

New revisions to the bylaws prohibit businesses from providing prepared food in polystyrene foam containers. This includes prepared food that is consumed on the premises, served as take-out or delivery, or packaged as leftovers, and covers plates, cups, bowls, trays, cartons, and hinged ("clamshell") or lidded containers, etc.

The prohibition on foam does not apply to hospitals or community care facilities, or to foam trays used for uncooked meat, poultry, seafood, or other food that requires further preparation.

ALTERNATIVE CONTAINERS

At food retail businesses, customers can use personal reusable containers for bulk food purchases.

For foodservice businesses, staff are encouraged to ask whether cutlery, napkins, or other "extras" are required instead of automatically including them in takeaway orders. Incentivize guests to use reusable vessels, like mugs, bags, cutlery, and bottles for takeaway goods. This will reduce unnecessary takeaway packaging.

If guests request takeaway, provide a takeaway container that is locally compostable, such as sugarcane containers. Inform the guest to compost these containers so they are kept out of the landfill.

The plastics crisis extends beyond foam containers, bags, and straws. We need to work together to continue eliminating all single-use and unnecessary plastics that become pollutants in this environment.

The BCCDC has provided guidance for businesses related to reusable beverage containers, reusable bags, takeaway containers, etc. Please refer to their website and Surfrider's safe use of reusable vessels guideline for full information on this topic.