

TORONTO MUNICIPAL CODE
CHAPTER 702, SINGLE-USE AND TAKE AWAY ITEMS

Chapter 702

SINGLE-USE AND TAKEAWAY ITEMS

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[History: Adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto on February 7, 2024, by By-law 68-2024¹. Amendments noted where applicable.]

General References

City of Toronto Act, 2006 - See S.O. 2006, c. 11.

§ 702-1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

A. Accessory Food Items

SINGLE-USE ACCESSORY FOOD ITEM – An item, that is ordinarily used only once before being disposed as waste, that facilitates the consumption of food such as utensils, straws, stir sticks, spill plugs, napkins (serviettes), condiment cups and packets, cup sleeves, and cup trays.

SELF-SERVE ACCESSORY FOOD ITEM STATION – An area in a retail business establishment where customers may obtain single-use accessory food items for themselves.

B. Beverage Cups

¹ Editor's Note: By-law 68-2024 is deemed to have come into force on March 1, 2024.

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BEVERAGE CUP – A cup designed to serve hot and/or cold beverages, and may include a lid to a cup. **[Amended 2024-05-23 by By-law 490-2024²]**

REUSABLE BEVERAGE CUP – A beverage cup designed to be used more than once, made from durable material, and capable of being washed or disinfected.

SINGLE-USE BEVERAGE CUP – A beverage cup that is: **[Added 2024-05-23 by By-law 490-2024³]**

- (1) Designed to be used once and then disposed of as waste; and
- (2) Ordinarily provided at the point of sale for a beverage at a retail business establishment, or, when a beverage is ordered by telephone or internet-based ordering platforms, is retrieved from the retail business establishment by the customer or a delivery service.

C. Events

CITY PROPERTY EVENT – A single day or multi-day public or private event that has been permitted by the City of Toronto to occur on city property.

RESTRICTED EVENT – A single day or multi-day public or private event restricted through requirement of a ticket or otherwise not open to general public attendance.

D. Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards or their designate or their successor.

E. General Manager

GENERAL MANAGER – The General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services or their designate or their successor.

F. Officer

OFFICER - A City employee whose duties include the enforcement of this chapter.

G. Retail Business Establishment

RETAIL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT – A premise, location, or operation where goods and/or services are offered for sale, such as stores, on-line businesses, eating or

² Editor's Note: This section of By-law 490-2024 came into force on May 25, 2024.

³ Editor's Note: This section of By-law 490-2024 came into force on May 25, 2024.

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drinking establishments, convenience stores, grocery stores, delicatessens, caterers, mobile food vendors, street vendors, vending machines, book stores, and clothing stores.

RETAIL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT OPERATOR – A person who owns, manages, supervises, runs, or controls a retail business establishment and includes a person who owns the premises where the retail business establishment is operated.

H. Self-Service Kiosk

SELF-SERVICE KIOSK – An interactive touchscreen computer located in a retail business establishment that allows a customer to purchase goods from the retail business establishment.

I. Shopping Bag

SHOPPING BAG – A bag that is designed for the purpose of carrying one or more items after they have been sold or otherwise provided to a customer at a retail business establishment.

INCOMPATIBLE PAPER SHOPPING BAG – A shopping bag made of paper that is:

- (1) Not compatible with City of Toronto's waste diversion programs, such as a shopping bag made of multiple layers of paper and/or contain non-paper materials such as textile, plastic, foil, metal, wax, or heavy prints; and
- (2) Ordinarily provided at the point of sale at a retail business establishment, or, when an item is ordered by telephone or internet-based ordering platform, is retrieved from the retail business establishment by the customer or a delivery service.

SINGLE-USE PAPER SHOPPING BAG – A shopping bag made of paper that is:

- (1) Equal to or greater than 15 cm x 20 cm when flat;
- (2) Not an incompatible paper shopping bag;
- (3) Designed to be used once and then disposed of as waste; and
- (4) Ordinarily provided at the point of sale at a retail business establishment, or, when an item is ordered by telephone or internet-based ordering platform, is retrieved from the retail business establishment by the customer or a delivery service.

REUSABLE SHOPPING BAG - A shopping bag that is:

- (1) Designed to be used more than once;
- (2) Made of fabric and/or other durable materials suitable for reuse; and

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- (3) Capable of being washed or disinfected.

§ 702-2. Accessory food item.

- A. No retail business establishment operator shall provide or permit the provision of a single-use accessory food item to a customer unless:
- (1) First asking the customer if they want the single-use accessory food item and the customer responds that they do, including responses given by telephone, self-service kiosk, or using an internet-based ordering platform;
 - (2) First receiving a request from the customer for the single-use accessory food item, including requests given by telephone, self-service kiosk, or using an internet-based ordering platform; or
 - (3) A customer obtains the single-use accessory item from a self-serve accessory food item station.
- B. §702-2.A. does not apply to retail business establishments that provide or permit the provision of single-use accessory food items to a customer at a City property event. **[Amended 2024-05-23 by By-law 490-2024⁴]**

§ 702-3. Paper shopping bags.

- A. No retail business establishment operator shall offer, provide, or permit the offering or provision of an incompatible paper shopping bag to a customer.
- B. No retail business establishment operator shall provide or permit the provision of a single-use paper shopping bag to a customer unless:
- (1) First asking the customer if they want the single-use paper shopping bag and the customer responds that they do, including responses given by telephone, self-service kiosk, or using an internet-based ordering platform;
 - (2) First receiving a request from the customer for the single-use paper shopping bag, including requests given by telephone, self-service kiosk, or using an internet-based ordering platform.
- C. Subsection B does not apply to a single-use paper shopping bag designed and used to hold only:

⁴ Editor's Note: This section of By-law 490-2024 came into force on January 1, 2025.

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- (1) Loose bulk items such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy that are not pre-packaged prior to the point of sale;
 - (2) Bakery goods that are not pre-packaged prior to point of sale;
 - (3) Loose small hardware items such as nails and bolts;
 - (4) Flowers or potted plants;
 - (5) Prescription drugs dispensed by pharmacists; or
 - (6) Free samples.
- D. §702-2.B. does not apply to retail business establishments that provide or permit the provision of single-use paper shopping bag to a customer at a City property event. **[Amended 2024-05-23 by By-law 490-2024⁵]**
- E. §702-3.B. does not apply to a retail business establishment if a single-use paper shopping bag is being used to carry any goods purchased by a customer and is either: **[Added 2024-05-23 by By-law 490-2024⁶]**
- (1) being delivered by the retail business establishment to a customer off the premises of the retail business establishment; or
 - (2) is picked up from the retail business establishment by a third-party delivery service and delivered to a customer off the premises of the retail business establishment.

§ 702-4. Reusable shopping bag.

- A. Every retail business establishment operator shall permit a customer to use one or more reusable shopping bag(s) brought by a customer to carry any items purchased by the customer or supplied to the customer at the retail business establishment.

§ 702-5. Reusable beverage cup.

- A. Every retail business establishment operator shall permit the use of a reusable beverage cup by a customer to hold a beverage purchased or obtained by a customer at the retail business establishment.

⁵ Editor's Note: This section of By-law 490-2024 came into force on January 1, 2025.

⁶ Editor's Note: This section of By-law 490-2024 came into force on May 25, 2024.

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- B. Despite subsection A. no retail business establishment operator shall permit or facilitate the use of a reusable beverage cup brought by a customer if the reusable beverage cup is not:
- (1) Of sound construction;
 - (2) In good repair;
 - (3) Of a shape and of material that permits it to be readily cleaned and sanitized;
 - (4) Visibly clean; or
 - (5) Otherwise suitable to be used as a beverage cup.
- C. Subsection A does not apply to retail business establishments that provide or permit the provision of beverages to a customer at a:
- (1) City property event; and/or
 - (2) restricted event.
- D. If a retail business establishment sells or provides a beverage in a single-use beverage cup to a customer, they shall post a notice visible to customers at any physical or virtual location stating that the retail business establishment accepts the use of a reusable beverage cup by a customer. **[Amended 2024-05-23 by By-law 490-2024⁷]**

§ 702-6. Offences.

- A. Every person who contravenes any provision of this chapter, or a direction or order issued in accordance with this chapter, is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of no less than \$500 and no more than \$100,000.
- B. In addition to a fine or fines provided for in this section, every person who gains an economic advantage or economic gain from contravening this chapter, or a direction or order issued in accordance with this chapter, shall be liable to a special fine in an amount equal to the fair market value of the economic advantage or economic gain so obtained from the contravention.
- C. In addition to offences referred to in Subsection A., every person is guilty of an offence under this chapter who:
- (1) Hinders or obstructs or attempts to hinder or obstruct any person exercising a power or performing a duty under this chapter;

⁷ Editor's Note: This section of By-law 490-2024 came into force on September 1, 2024.

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- (2) Neglects or refuses to produce or provide any information or thing to any person acting pursuant to an order made under section 378 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006;
 - (3) Knowingly makes, participates in, assents to or acquiesces in the provision of false information in a statement, affidavit, application or other document prepared, submitted or filed under this chapter.
- D. Where a corporation contravenes any of the provisions of this chapter, or a direction or order issued in accordance with this chapter, every director or officer who concurs in such contravention is guilty of an offence and, upon conviction, is liable to a fine of no less than \$500 and no more than \$100,000.
- E. Each offence is designated as a continuing offence and is subject to, for each day or part of a day that the offence continues, a maximum fine of no more than \$10,000. The total of all of the daily fines imposed for each offence may exceed \$100,000.

§ 702-7. Entry to inspect.

- A. In accordance with section 376 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006, an officer may enter upon land within the City of Toronto at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out inspections to determine whether the following are being complied with:
- (1) This chapter; or
 - (2) A direction or order issued in accordance with this chapter.
- B. For the purposes of an inspection under subsection A, an officer may:
- (1) Require, for inspection, the production of documents or things relevant to the inspection;
 - (2) Inspect and remove documents or things relevant to the inspection for the purpose of making copies or extracts of them;
 - (3) Require information from any person concerning a matter related to the inspection;
 - (4) Be accompanied by such person or persons as the officer determines is necessary if such person or persons possesses special or expert knowledge related to the purpose of the inspection; and
 - (5) Make examinations or take tests, samples or photographs necessary for the purposes of the inspection.

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§ 702-8. Orders to comply.

- A. An officer who finds a contravention of this chapter may make one or more orders requiring discontinuance of the contravening activity or to do work to correct the contravention under section 384 or 385 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006.

- B.
 - (1) The order may be served personally on the person to whom it is directed, by regular mail, or by registered mail to the last known address of that person, in which case it shall be deemed to have been given on the third day after it is mailed.

 - (2) If the address of a person is unknown or the City is unable to effect service on the person under subsection B (1), a placard stating the terms of the order and placed in a conspicuous place upon land on or near the retail business establishment shall be deemed to be sufficient notice to the person.

 - (3) If the delay necessary to serve an order under subsection B (1) would result in circumstances that endanger the health or safety of any person or similarly serious consequences, the order may be served by a placard stating the terms of the order and placed in a conspicuous place upon land on or near the retail business establishment.

§ 702-9. Remedial action.

- A. If a person fails to comply with an order to do work to correct a contravention of this chapter, the Executive Director or persons acting on their instructions, may enter the premises of a retail business establishment at any reasonable time for the purposes of doing the things described in the order at the person's expense.