

## **Public Health regulations and guidance on the use of reusable containers and cups**

Any practices to accept customer/client supplied containers or cups must conform to the Ontario Food Premises regulations under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990*.<sup>1</sup> Food premises have the autonomy to decide to accept or not accept customer/client supplied containers or cups.

If a food premise chooses to adopt policies to accept reusable containers or cups from their customers, they must adhere to section 8 under Ontario Regulation 493/17: Food Premises under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

8. (1) All equipment, utensils and multi-service articles that are used for the preparation, processing, packaging, serving, transportation, manufacture, handling, sale, offer for sale or display of food in a food premise shall be:
  - (a) of sound and tight construction;
  - (b) kept in good repair;
  - (c) of such form and material that it can be readily cleaned and sanitized; and
  - (d) suitable for their intended purpose.
  
- (2) Equipment and utensils that come into direct contact with food shall be:
  - (a) corrosion-resistant and non-toxic; and
  - (b) free from cracks, crevices and open seams.

Further information from Health Canada guidance regarding the use of reusable bags and bins can be found on Canada's Food Safety site.<sup>2</sup>

### **COVID-19 update**

Toronto Public Health has not required businesses to suspend the use of reusable containers or cups. Restaurants, food stores, or companies may have independently chosen to suspend this process during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic as a health and safety precautionary measure.

Toronto Public Health has created a series of COVID-19 guidance documents to help businesses and community organizations operate safely. The following two guidance documents are specific to the food industry. These documents do not contain any language that prohibits or discourages the use of reusable containers or cups.

**COVID-19 Guidelines for Restaurants, Bars and other Food Service Premises**  
<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/8e95-COVID-19-Guidance-for-Reopening-your-Restaurant.pdf>

**COVID-19 Guidance for Food Stores**  
<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/90fd-COVID-19-Fact-Sheet-Food-Stores.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup> Ontario Food Premises Regulation 493/17, Link: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/170493>

<sup>2</sup> Government of Canada General Food Safety Tips, Link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/general-food-safety-tips/reusable-grocery-bags-bins.html>