

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*¹. 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 sections 8 and 26 under Ontario Regulation 493/17: Food Premises under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990*:

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.
26. (1) All food shall be protected from contamination and adulteration.

In line with these requirements, particular care must be used in addressing overfilling and spill situations².

Further information from Health Canada guidance regarding the use of reusable bags and bins can be found on Canada's Food Safety site³.

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

² Cleaning and Sanitation of Food Contact Surfaces and Equipment – City of Toronto Webpage - <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/food-safety/food-safety-for-businesses/food-safety-resources/cleaning-sanitation/>

³ 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>