



What Staff Should Know

The following information has been developed to help staff answer questions about the Municipality of Jasper's plastic checkout bag ban.

About the ban

The Municipality of Jasper's Waste Reduction Bylaw came into effect on July 1, 2019. For now, voluntary compliance is encouraged. Enforcement of the bylaw will take effect at a date to be determined by Council.

The goal of the bylaw is to help reduce the amount of plastic waste generated in our community.

Retailers are allowed to use up their existing stock of plastic bags. Once the existing stock is gone businesses can provide either paper or reusable checkout bags. Businesses may charge a fee for a paper or reusable bag – that fee would be set by each business.

What do I need to know at the checkout?

Ask customers whether they need a bag. Once your store's current plastic bags are gone all bags provided should be paper or reusable.

Check with your manager to see if there is a fee for paper or reusable bags at your store.

Some tips for speaking with customers about the bylaw

Question	Response
What does the bylaw mean?	All businesses in Jasper are encouraged to stop providing single-use plastic checkout bags.
Why is the Municipality doing this?	To help reduce the amount of plastic waste generated in our community.
What can people do to help?	Remember your reusable bags. Try keeping reusable bags in a handy location like your car, backpack or purse.
Can stores provide other bags instead?	Paper bags and reusable bags can be provided. Businesses may charge a fee for paper or reusable bags.
Are some plastic bags still allowed?	The ban focuses on checkout bags, usually provided at the till. Plastic bags are still allowed for some things like bulk items and certain food items.
What are the consequences of not following the bylaw?	For now, voluntary compliance is encouraged. Enforcement of the bylaw will take effect at a date to be determined by Council.

Want to learn more? Visit www.jasper-alberta.com/BYObag

Tip Sheet for Business Owners and Managers

The following information has been developed to help business owners and managers better understand the Municipality of Jasper's plastic checkout bag ban.

About the ban

By approving the Waste Reduction Bylaw, Jasper Municipal Council passed a plastic checkout bag ban starting July 1, 2019. The bylaw could be updated in the future to include other single-use items such as plastic straws, utensils, take-out food containers, polystyrene foam cups and containers, and flushables. Voluntary compliance is encouraged by July 1, 2019. Enforcement will take effect at a date to be determined by Council.

What's happening now?

The ban means that all Jasper businesses are encouraged to stop providing plastic checkout bags, which are usually provided at the till. **However, retailers are allowed to use up their existing stock of plastic bags.**

- Jasperites and visitors are encouraged to bring their own reusable shopping bags to help reduce the amount of plastic waste generated in our community.
- Retailers may provide paper bags or reusable bags to customers, and can choose whether or not to charge for them. If your business does impose a fee for paper or reusable bags, this fee will be set by your business.
- Plastic bags may still be provided in-store for items like produce, bulk items, meat and prepared foods (see complete exemptions on the next page).

Which bags are allowed?

Businesses can provide either paper or reusable checkout bags. Paper bags should contain at least 40% of post-consumer recycled content, and reusable bags should be designed and manufactured to be capable of at least 100 uses, and be primarily made of cloth or other washable fabric.

Reusable checkout bag examples

There are many types of reusable checkout bags that are designed to be capable of at least 100 uses. Examples of durable and reusable bag materials include:

- Synthetic materials like nylon, polyester and polypropylene (non-woven and woven polypropylene)
- Cotton or recycled cotton
- Other natural fabrics like hemp and jute

Which bags are prohibited?

All types of plastic checkout bags are banned, including Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE), High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and biodegradable plastic bags.

JASPER'S WASTE REDUCTION BYLAW

Tip Sheet for Business Owners and Managers

What are the exemptions?

Plastic bags may be provided in-store to package, wrap or protect:

- Loose bulk items (nuts, grain, candy, etc.);
- Loose small items (nails, bolts, fish hooks, etc.);
- Frozen foods, meat, poultry, fish and produce;
- Flowers or potted plants;
- Prepared foods or bakery goods that are not pre-packaged;
- Prescription drugs from a pharmacy;
- Linen, bedding, large items of clothing or other similar items that cannot easily fit in a reusable bag.

The ban does not apply to prepackaged plastic bags intended for use at the customer's home, such as garbage or Ziploc bags.

Bylaw education

The Municipality's current focus is on developing education and awareness related to the bylaw, and will continue to work with retailers to promote compliance.

More information

The complete Bylaw and this retail toolkit are available online at:

www.jasper-alberta.com/BYObag

Still have questions?

Give us a call or email. We'd be happy to chat about this new bylaw.

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www.jasper-alberta.com/BYObag



BYO

BAG



*Be the change
bring your own bag*

NEW MUNICIPAL BYLAW EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019

Businesses are encouraged to stop providing plastic checkout bags

Learn more: jasper-alberta.com/byobag

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