

Tips to Reuse, Refill and Rethink Waste



Richmond's Business Recycling Resources Program provides support to help businesses increase recycling and manage their waste.

The City of Richmond is encouraging businesses to rethink waste and help support a circular economy by considering options such as reusable containers, refill programs and rethinking business and buying practices.

In addition to the environmental benefits of reducing waste, businesses can promote their refill and reuse programs as steps they are taking to implement more sustainable waste management.

RETHINKING WASTE

Before making buying decisions or when assessing the amount of waste generated by your business, take a moment to rethink past practices to consider other options. This includes:

- Selecting products that generate less waste and are less harmful to the environment,
- Considering alternate options such as refillable and reusable containers, and
- Assessing opportunities to improve current recycling programs for staff and customers.



Choosing Reusable Products



Consider where you can swap single-use items for reusable ones, such return-for-deposit tiffin takeout containers.

Reusable products can be used repeatedly for the same purpose and are an excellent alternative to single-use items, which generate a lot of unnecessary waste. By using an item multiple times, rather than disposing after a single use, businesses can reduce the amount of waste they generate.

BENEFITS OF REUSABLE ITEMS

- Reduces reliance on single-use items, which generate unnecessary waste and can result in litter and ocean pollution.
- Creates less waste, which can reduce waste collection requirements.
- Lowers consumption of materials and fuel.
- Demonstrates responsible actions to be sustainable and reduce environmental impacts.



Resources and a directory of links in this document:
richmond.ca/BusinessRecycling



Choosing Refillable Products

Rather than buying products in new containers whenever supplies run low, businesses can reduce the amount of waste generated by switching to a refill system where a container can be used multiple times for products such as soap, cleaning solutions and other bulk items.

BENEFITS OF REFILLABLE PRODUCTS

- Decreases packaging and containers that generate waste.
- Buying products in bulk rather than individual containers may offer cost-savings.
- Refillable containers can be selected based on the size or type that best suits a business' operations and available storage space.



Consider which products can be bought in bulk and refilled.

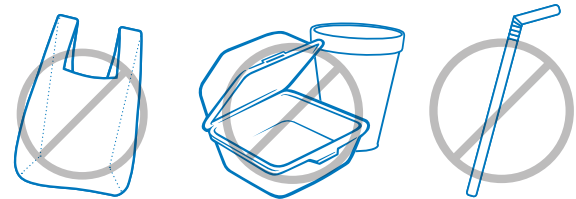


Reducing Single-Use Plastic

Single-use plastic creates unnecessary waste and litter that can result in pollution in oceans and green spaces. Richmond's *Single-Use Plastic and Other Items Bylaw No. 10000* bans plastic checkout bags and plastic straws (including biodegradable and compostable plastics) as well as foam food service ware for prepared food. The City provides resources for businesses to assist with sourcing accepted alternatives to banned items, and encourages consumers to choose reusable options.

PURCHASING TIPS

- If choosing compostable paper products, ensure they do not contain poly- and per-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) which are used as moisture or oil barriers. PFAS are chemicals that linger in the environment and can have negative health impacts.
- Choose unbleached paper bags over bleached and look for recycled content.
- Look for reusable bags with recycled plastic content to reduce environmental impact.
- Look for reusable bags that can be used at least 100 times and are washable.
- For net shopping bags, hemp may be better than cotton as it requires less energy to grow and harvest.



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN ASSESSING ALTERNATIVES

- Food service ware that is recycled or has a higher recycling rate at end-of-life is frequently found to have lower environmental impacts across all impact categories.
- Materials like paper that are both compostable and recyclable often result in higher energy savings when they are recycled instead of composted.
- Compostable paper-based food service ware is often found to increase rates of food scraps recycling.
- Plastic bags and straws labelled "compostable" or "biodegradable" are not permitted under the ban as they are not accepted at local composting facilities and cannot be recycled.

Did you know?

In a community survey, Richmond residents told us:

97% have used reusable bags

63% have used reusable cups

















55% were likely to choose vendors that use compostable containers instead of foam – even if it costs more

Resources and a directory of links in this document:

richmond.ca/BusinessRecycling



Making Sustainable Choices

I NEED TO USE:	✓ SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS	✓ REUSABLE OPTIONS	✗ UNNECESSARY WASTE
Bag	Compostable paper bags 	Reusable cloth bags 	Plastic (including compostable / biodegradable plastic) bags
Dishware	Compostable paper or pulp fibre dishware 	Reusable dishware 	Plastic (including compostable / biodegradable plastic) and Styrofoam dishware
Cutlery	Compostable wooden cutlery 	Reusable cutlery 	Plastic (including compostable / biodegradable plastic) cutlery
Stir sticks	Compostable wooden stir sticks 	Reusable cutlery 	Plastic stir sticks
Water bottle	Encourage people to bring their own water bottles 	Provide reusable water cups 	Single-use water bottles
Straws	Paper straws 	Metal straws or encourage people to skip the straw 	Plastic (including compostable / biodegradable plastic) straws
Napkins and tablecloths	Recycled / compostable / biodegradable paper 	Fabric napkins tablecloths 	Single-use, made from unrecyclable materials
Take-out containers	Compostable paper/fibre or recyclable metal containers 	Tiffins or other return-for-deposit containers 	Plastic (including compostable / biodegradable plastic) and Styrofoam containers



Learn More

The best way to improve recycling programs is to first gain an understanding of the waste generated by your business and the recycling services available. Richmond's Business Recycling Resources Program includes tips and guides to complete a waste audit to first assess your recycling requirements, as well as resources related to selecting the best mix of recycling services and what to consider in your waste collection contracts.

Interested in Refill or Reuse Options for Your Business?

For a list of businesses and suppliers, or to attend a workshop to get started, visit richmond.ca/BusinessRecycling.

BUSINESS RECYCLING RESOURCES PROGRAM



Working together to increase business recycling

Richmond's free Business Recycling Resources Program provides an extra level of support to help businesses increase recycling and manage their waste.

ACCESS FREE RESOURCES INCLUDING:

- Customized training and coaching
- In-person and virtual workshops
- Advice on how to develop a Recycling & Waste Reduction Plan
- Assistance in completing a waste audit
- Support in implementing sustainable waste management practices
- Tips on how to recycle correctly and reduce contamination



**REGISTER FOR THE
BUSINESS RECYCLING
RESOURCES PROGRAM**

Email BusinessRecycling@richmond.ca
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