

Guide to single-use plastic items allowed and prohibited

Federal and Montreal regulations

Montreal and the Government of Canada have adopted regulations prohibiting the sale and offer of some single-use plastic products.

Beside is a summary of the targeted articles, sold at Carrousel.

Effective dates

Montreal : March 28, 2023

The ban is in effect since September 28, 2022 for plastic bags.

Federal: December 20, 2023

The manufacture and import of the banned items are prohibited since December 20, 2022.

✓ Allowed

✓ Allowed or prohibited according to some criteria or applications, see reverse.

✗ Prohibited



	Federal	Montreal
 Checkout bags, including those made of degradable plastic	✗	✗
 Bags for carrying food in the store (e.g. fruits and vegetables)	✓	✓
 Reusable plastic shopping bags	✓	✓
 Stir sticks	✗	✗
 Cutlery for on-site consumption	✓	✗
 Cutlery on request for delivery/takeout	✓	✓
 Straws	✓	✗
 Foam foodservice ware (expanded or extruded)	✓	✓
 Black food containers for food or beverage that is ready to be consumed	✗	✓
 Black food containers for food to be reheated or not ready to eat	✓	✓
 Foodservice ware and cups made of non-black, non-expanded or extruded plastic	✓	✗
 Food containers and tableware made of non-black plastic	✓	✓
 Foodservice ware made of compostable plastic (including PLA)	✓	✗
 Cups and lids made of any non-black plastic	✓	✗
 plastic lids	✓	✗

Notes

Federal Regulation

Reusable plastic shopping bags

Bags meeting the following criteria are accepted:

- don't break if they are used to carry 10 kg over a distance of 53 m 100 times;
- don't break if they are washed in accordance with the washing procedures specified for a single domestic wash (standard ISO 6130).

Cutlery and straws

Plastic utensils and straws meeting the following criteria are accepted as they are considered reusable:

- not made of polystyrene or polyethylene;
- can tolerate 100 wash cycles in a household dishwasher.

Flexible straws


Some exceptions will be in effect for flexible straws. See the federal regulation on this subject.

Foam foodservice ware (expanded or extruded)

They are allowed only if they are trays and are used to package food that is not ready to be eaten (e.g. vegetables, meat, fish)

Black food containers


Only black containers meeting the following criteria are accepted:

- contain foods that need to be prepared (baking in the oven, heating in a microwave or toaster) before they can be eaten or meat and fish that are not ready to eat or vegetables;
- are not made of foam ( expanded or extruded) or PVC.

Compostable plastic foodservice ware

It is important to differentiate between compostable plastic, such as PLA, and "oxo-degradable plastic", which is prohibited. Also note that all black packaging is prohibited, even if it is compostable plastic.

Cups and lids

Foam cups ( expanded or extruded) as well as black lids and black cups are prohibited.


Montreal Regulation

Businesses affected and not affected

The regulation concerns establishments located in the boroughs of Montreal that offer food service or that package food items for retail sale. Excluded are:

- establishments that do not receive consumers in-house and offer only delivery service;
- non-profit organizations whose mission includes food distribution.

Cutlery for delivery/takeout

Utensils made of  plastic are not permitted under any circumstances.

Foam foodservice ware (expanded or extruded)

Only trays for packing meat or fish are allowed.

Black foodservice ware

Foodservice ware made of  plastic (expanded, extruded or not) are prohibited, regardless of their color.

This document was last updated on April 6, 2023.