

# Reducing Single-Use Plastic Bags Starting July 1, 2019

The City of Salmon Arm now has a bylaw to regulate checkout shopping bags. Retailers are required to ask if you would like a bag and fees should be stated on your bill.

Effective Date				
	Plastic Bag	Biodegradable/ Compostable Bag	Paper Bag (minimum 40% recycled content)	Reusable Bag (capable of minimum 100 uses)
July 1, 2019	Until Supplies Last	Until Supplies Last	\$0.15 minimum	\$1.00 minimum
January 1, 2020	Prohibited	Prohibited	\$0.25 minimum	\$2.00 minimum

## What does this mean for me as a consumer?

When you head to any retail store and require a bag you will be charged for a paper or reusable bag if you do not bring your own.

### Why is reducing the amount of single-use checkout bags important?

The purpose of the bylaw is to regulate the use of single-use checkout bags by businesses. These regulations will reduce plastic bag litter and waste in our community and our landfill.

### Why do retailers have to charge for paper and reusable bags?

To encourage the use of reusable bags.

### Can residents continue to use plastic bags that they already have?

The bylaw regulates business practices and states that new single-use plastic bags cannot be distributed to customers. Residents can continue to reuse their existing plastic bags.

### Why are retailers still providing plastic bags?

The bylaw is effective July 1, 2019; however retailers are provided a six month transition period where they can use their existing stock of plastic bags and source allowable bag options. On January 1, 2020, all retailers will be prohibited from providing single-use plastic bags.

### Why can't retailers provide biodegradable or compostable bags?

Biodegradable and compostable bags do not adequately breakdown in a landfill.

### Does this mean I cannot use plastic bags to collect my garbage anymore?

Plastic bin-liners and garbage bags are allowed and can still be purchased in bulk at retail outlets.