















Choose to Reuse

Say NO to single-use plastics

Single-use Plastics Guidelines

In accordance with the City's Single-Use Plastics Reduction Policy, the items in the "Avoid" column below should not be used. Please replace these single-use items with reusable items shown in the green "Preferred Substitute" column. Reusable options should always be prioritized over disposables. However, in cases where this is not possible or practical, disposable items that can be diverted in the City's organics or recycling programs shown in the "Acceptable Substitute" column, may be used.

 SINGLE-USE ITEMS TO AVOID	PREFERRED SUBSTITUTE	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE
Plastic or Styrofoam Plates 	Reusable Plates 	100% Paper Plates 
Plastic or Styrofoam Cups and Lids 	Reusable Bottles or Cups 	Clear or Coloured Plastic Cups (Not Black) 
Plastic Bags 	Reusable Bags 	100% Paper Bags 
Plastic Stir Sticks 	Reusable Stir Sticks or Spoons 	100% Compostable (Pasta or Other Edible Item) 
Plastic or Styrofoam Bowls and Take-out Containers 	Reusable Containers 	<div> <div> 100% Paper Containers  </div> <div> Clear or Coloured Plastic Containers (Not Black)  </div> </div>
Single Serve Condiments 	Bulk Dispensers and Containers 	N/A

 SINGLE-USE ITEMS TO AVOID	PREFERRED SUBSTITUTE	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE	EXCEPTION
Plastic Straws 	Reusable Straws 	100% Paper Straws 	For People with Disabilities¹ 
Pre-packaged Plastic Cutlery 	Reusable Cutlery 	N/A	If Reusable items are not possible or practical² 
Plastic Bottled Water 	Reusable Bottles or Pitchers 	N/A	If Reusable items are not possible or practical² 
Single-use Coffee Cups and Lids 	Reusable Cups 	N/A	If Reusable items are not possible or practical² 

BIODEGRADABLE AND COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS



These items are strongly discouraged in City facilities because they:

- Are not accepted in the York Region organics stream
- Require specialized industrial composting facilities
- Take months to break down
- Give the impression that they are a sustainable choice, but actually belong in the garbage



WHERE DOES IT GO?



GARBAGE



ORGANICS



RECYCLING

EXCEPTIONS:

1 PLASTIC STRAWS

A small supply of single-use plastic flexible straws may be kept on hand for accessibility requirements for people with disabilities.

2 DISPOSABLE CUTLERY, CUPS AND PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES

If single-use items are unavoidable (i.e. no kitchen access, outdoor functions, emergency situations, etc.) single-use plastic cutlery, coffee cups and water bottles may be used.

Questions? Email wastemgmt@richmondhill.ca

RichmondHill.ca/LessWaste

