

MUNICIPAL BAG FEES BYLAWS IN CANADA

Municipal bag fee bylaws are rare in Canada. Administration is aware of only one municipal bag fee bylaw currently operating in Canada, in Squamish, B.C. Squamish also has a bag fee on paper bags which is three times higher than the bag fee on plastic bags. There were previously municipal bag fee bylaws in Orillia, ON and Toronto, ON. Both of these were rescinded after three years. See the Retail Council of Canada’s quick chart of plastic bag regulations at <https://www.retailcouncil.org/regulations-and-bylaws-on-shopping-bags-in-canada/> for much of the following data.

B.C.	Squamish	<p>Checkout bags may only be supplied after a customer is first asked if they need a checkout bag.</p> <p>All checkout bags (paper and plastic, both single-use and reusable) are subject to fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 cents per single-use plastic bag (rising to 25 cents on March 16, 2020); • 30 cents per single-use paper bag (rising to 75 cents on March 16, 2020); • \$1.10 per reusable bag (rising to \$2.75 on March 16, 2020). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packages of multiple bags intended for use at the customer’s home or business, provided that they are prepackaged and sold in packages of multiple bags. • Canada Post deliveries, or any deliveries made by or on behalf of the provincial or federal governments or as authorized by provincial or federal law. • Plastic bags used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Package loose bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy; ○ Package loose small hardware items such as nails and bolts; ○ Package frozen foods, meat, poultry or fish, whether pre-packaged or not; ○ Package flowers or potted plants; ○ Package prepared foods or bakery goods that are not pre-packaged; ○ Package prescription drugs received from a pharmacy; ○ Transport live fish; ○ Package linens, bedding or other similar fabric items if they cannot fit easily in a reusable bag; ○ Package clothes after professional laundering or dry cleaning. • Until March 16, 2020, there is an exemption for packaged newspapers or other printed material intended to be left at the customer’s residence or place of business.
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