

General FAQs

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.
- Saanich residents use approximately 200 bags each every year. Reducing waste can lead to lower District operating costs and increased service levels that enhance the quality of life and experience for all Saanich residents and visitors.

Can residents continue to use plastic bags that they already have after the bylaw comes in effect on August 20, 2021?

The bylaw regulates business practices and states that new single-use plastic bags cannot be distributed to customers after August 20. Residents can continue to reuse their existing plastic bags.

Where can plastic bags be recycled?

Existing plastic bags can be taken to [depots](#) around the District and to many grocery stores and retail outlets to have these bags recycled responsibly. The CRD keeps an up to date list of depots [here](#). The [Recycling Council of British Columbia](#) is also a good resource for finding out where to recycle specific materials.

I use a plastic bag to line my waste bins. Does this bylaw mean I cannot use plastic bags to collect my garbage anymore?

Plastic bin-liners and garbage bags can still be purchased in bulk at retail outlets. In many circumstances, dry residential landfill garbage does not require a plastic bin bag, but can be disposed directly into the residential Grey Bins. We encourage residents to separate kitchen scraps, and recyclables from landfill waste. Bin liners are only required for certain waste types to minimize health concerns, dust or debris during pickup and transport, and can be made from other repurposed plastic packaging or purchased bags.

I use plastic bags to pick up my pet's waste. What will I use instead?

Use the same dog bags that are available in dispensers or pet stores across the region.

Can reusable bags be recycled at the end of their intended service life?

Some reusable bags can be recycled while others cannot be recycled. The [Pacific Mobile Depots](#) accept reusable bags.