

LITTLE
RIPPLES MAKE
BIG CHANGE

Oxo-Degradable Plastics



SINGLE-USE & PLASTIC WASTE PREVENTION REGULATION

gov.bc.ca/reuse

What are oxo-degradable plastics?

Oxo-degradable plastics (including oxo-biodegradable plastics) contain additives that break down through oxidation, leaving microplastics that pollute the environment. They often claim to degrade and are commonly used in products that are marketed as biodegradable, green or eco-friendly.

What you need to know

PROHIBITED



As of July 15, 2024, B.C. businesses can no longer sell or distribute any packaging or single-use (disposable) products that contain oxo-degradable plastics. This doesn't affect products made from conventional plastics.

What you need to do

1. Stop selling single-use products that contain oxo-degradable plastic

Speak to your suppliers, and check the labels on all single-use plastic products you sell or distribute.

2. Stop offering packaging that contains oxo-degradable plastic

Don't provide customers with single-use items or packaging made completely or partly from oxo-degradable plastics.

These items are exempt under the regulation, and may continue to be used.

EXEMPTIONS

Medical devices containing oxo-degradable plastic

Oxo-degradable plastic items made for sale or distribution outside of B.C.

Oxo-degradable plastics may be found in some packaging and disposable products that claim to degrade or fragment, such as:



Dog-waste bags



Garbage bags



Dry-cleaning bags

Acceptable items are typically labelled as:

Made from recycled content



Made from PE (polyethylene)



Made from LDPE (low-density polyethylene)



Items to avoid are typically labelled as:

Oxo-degradable



Oxo-biodegradable



Biodegradable



Degradable



Oxo-plastic



This fact sheet is part of a toolkit produced to help B.C. businesses comply with the regulation.

Looking for options to single-use plastics? Find our handy alternatives guide, plus fact sheets on other restricted items and additional printable tools – including posters and signs that you can use to inform your staff and customers – at gov.bc.ca/reuse.



Through the Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation, B.C. is phasing out many hard-to-recycle single-use plastic items – reducing waste, protecting our environment, and creating a cleaner future for all British Columbians.



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy