

# RECYCLABLE OF THE MONTH:

Jan. 2026

**SKIP the STUFF !**



## **SKIP the STUFF** Now in Effect!

Wellesley's "Skip the Stuff" bylaw is now officially in effect as of January 1, 2026. This Board of Health bylaw (34.5D) requires food service establishments to provide single-use articles only upon customer request or at a self-service counter.

### **Why is this an issue?**

Every year, **billions** of unused utensils, condiment packets, and other accessories are included in take-out and delivery orders - even when customers don't want or need them. This waste pollutes our community, clogs our waste systems, and means restaurants are literally throwing money away.

### **What's Changed?**

**The bylaw is now the law.** Food service providers in Wellesley are required to ASK FIRST. If you need utensils, napkins, condiments, or other accessories, you can still get them - but they will no longer be provided automatically. Some establishments have already adopted this practice and are leading the way!

### **What Does This Mean for You as a Customer?**

Single-use condiments, utensils, napkins, and other accessories will only be provided upon request. You can still get everything you need, but these items will no longer be included automatically with your order.

### **When ordering takeout or delivery:**

- Check the ordering platform or ask if you need utensils, napkins, or condiments
- Think about what you actually need - are you eating at home where you have silverware?
- Request only what you'll use



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