

# Disposable Foodware Ordinance

## Purchasing Guide

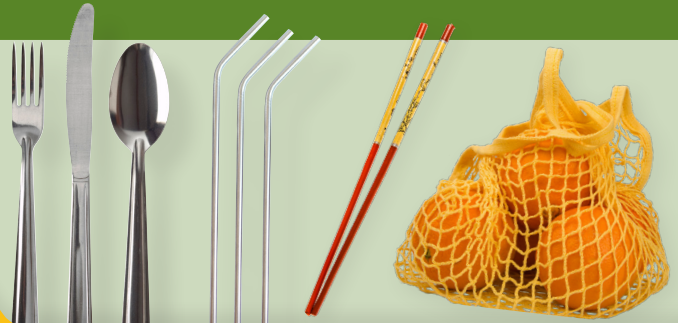


Achieving zero waste together

All businesses serving food in Palo Alto are required to provide only reusable or compostable utensils, straws, stirrers, drink plugs, chopsticks, produce bags, and other small foodware items. These items can be provided to customers only upon request or at a self-serve station. Utensils and condiments may not be bundled and food delivery services must require customers to "opt-in" to receive these items.

### Encouraged: Reusable

- Metal or other washable utensils, straws, stir sticks, & chopsticks.
- Cloth or other reusable produce bags
- Bulk condiments



### Accepted: Compostable

#### Better

- Fiber (wood/bamboo/paper/hay) utensils, straws, stir sticks, drink plugs, chopsticks, & produce bags
- Unbundled utensils & condiments

#### Okay

- Compostable plastic utensils, straws, stir sticks, drink plugs, chopsticks, & produce bags
- Must be BPI Certified. Look for the logo on compostable plastic items being considered



### Banned: Plastic & Bundled

- Plastic utensils, straws, stir sticks, drink plugs, chopsticks, & produce bags
- Other small plastic foodware items such as food picks & cocktail accessories
- Bundled utensils or condiments



GreenWaste of Palo Alto offers free technical assistance to help your business meet requirements. Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto at (650) 493-4894 or [pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com).

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware)  
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