



MODEL ORDINANCE Disposable food service ware and polystyrene foam ban

Jurisdictions in Sonoma County have implemented or are considering an ordinance, called the Ordinance to Prohibit Use and Sale of Disposable Food Service Ware and Other Products Containing Polystyrene Foam, to ban the sale of certain polystyrene foam products, prohibit fluorinated chemicals (PFAS), and require the use of reusable or locally recyclable or compostable food ware.

REUSABLE IS BEST



Food service providers are encouraged to provide and incentivise reusables for their customers

RECYCLABLE IS GREAT



FIBER COMPOSTABLE IS GREAT



Single-use food ware must be compostable or recyclable through Sonoma County's commercial collection programs and may not contain PFAS chemicals

POLYSTYRENE FOAM IS GOING AWAY



Retailers cannot sell or distribute polystyrene foam items including:

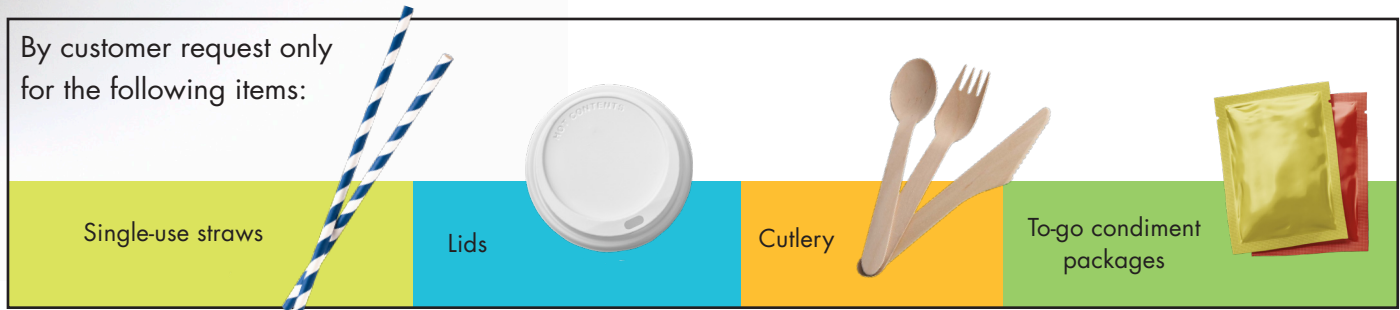
- Disposable polystyrene foam food service ware
- Polystyrene foam peanuts and packaging
- Coolers

The ordinance has been adopted individually by each jurisdiction in Sonoma County except Rohnert Park; however, Petaluma, Cloverdale, Santa Rosa, and Sebastopol currently have requirements that differ from what is listed in this guide. Please confirm specific requirements within your jurisdiction.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is in the ordinance? The ordinance addresses six areas:

1. Prohibits polystyrene foam food ware distributed by food and beverage providers.
2. Prohibits polystyrene foam food ware and specified polystyrene foam products sold by retail stores.
3. Requires food/beverage providers and special events to use compostable or recyclable disposable food service ware.
4. Requires food/beverage providers to provide single-use straws, lids, cutlery and to-go condiment packages only upon request.
5. Requires food/beverage providers to provide service ware products without added fluorinated chemicals (PFAS).
6. Encourages use of reusables. Food/beverage providers are encouraged (but not required) to provide a \$0.25 credit to customers bringing their own reusable containers, and to charge a \$0.25 take-out fee for any combination of disposable cups, lids, straws, and/or utensils. It is assumed that money collected will go towards the purchase of ordinance-compliant disposable alternatives.



Who is affected?

Food/beverage providers. Examples include restaurants, bars, retail food vendors (including any store, shop, sales outlet, convenience store, grocery store, or deli), schools, faith-based organizations and food trucks.

Retailers. Any store or other business that sells goods or merchandise.

Special event promoters, government entities, contractors and lessees.

Which products are exempt?

Foods prepared or packaged outside the jurisdiction. All vendors of pre-packaged items are encouraged to follow the ordinance.

Disposable food ware compostable or recyclable through Sonoma County's commercial programs.

Products containing polystyrene foam which pose a small risk of becoming litter.

Reusable polystyrene foam used for insulating or flotation purposes and is completely encased in more durable material. Examples include surfboards, boats, life preservers, construction materials, craft supplies and durable coolers not principally composed of polystyrene foam.

Packaging for meat and fish.

***One-year exemptions are available.** In cases of undue financial hardship, businesses may apply online at the link below.