



LOCAL ORDINANCE Disposable food service ware and polystyrene foam ban

Jurisdictions in Sonoma County have implemented local ordinances to prohibit the use of single-use food ware that is not compostable or recyclable in local programs, ban the sale and use of most products containing polystyrene foam, and prohibit the use of food ware containing fluorinated chemicals (PFAS). These requirements apply to food facilities, retailers, and users, contractors, and lessees of jurisdiction-owned facilities.

REUSABLE IS BEST



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

RECYCLABLE IS GOOD



FIBER COMPOSTABLE IS GREAT



Recyclable includes aluminum and #1, #2, and #5 plastics. Compostable means wood, bamboo, paper or natural fiber. No PLA, PHA, or bioplastic.

POLYSTYRENE FOAM IS BANNED



Retailers cannot sell or distribute polystyrene foam items including:

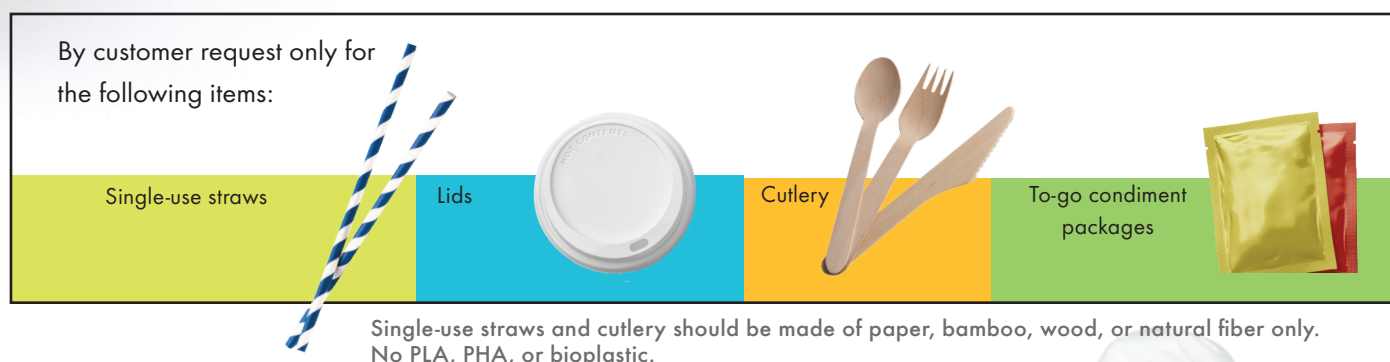
- Disposable polystyrene foam food service ware
- Polystyrene foam peanuts and packaging
- Coolers

Versions of the model ordinance have been adopted and implemented across Sonoma County Jurisdictions. Please confirm specific requirements within your jurisdiction.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What's in the ordinance? The model 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 food service ware.
4. Requires food/beverage providers to provide single-use straws, lids, cutlery and to-go condiment packages only upon request. Customer may ask for the particular items, food providers may offer specific items, or the establishment may utilize a self-service area.
5. Requires food/beverage providers to provide service ware products without added fluorinated chemicals (PFAS).
6. Reusables are encouraged. 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. Money collected shall go towards the purchase of ordinance-compliant food ware. Santa Rosa and Sebastopol require reusables for dine-in. See municipal code for more information.



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.

Single use, hot beverage cups. At this time, there are no price-competitive options that are recyclable or compostable through Sonoma County's commercial collection programs.

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.