

FOOD SERVICE WARE ORDINANCE: The City of Palm Springs is working to address the growing problem of plastics in our environment created by our disposable culture. Section 5.87 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code (Ordinance 2045) was added to help promote reusable food ware, rethink disposables, and reduce single use plastics to protect people and the planet. The requirements apply to all food vendors such as sit-down restaurants, fast-food restaurants, bars, and hospitality venues.

Requirements Effective January 1, 2022

USE REUSABLES FOR ON-SITE DINING



Food vendors must use reusable items (metal, ceramic, glass, plastic) for on-site dining:

- Plates/Dishes/Bowls
- Drinking cups
- Coffee cups
- Silverware

If you offer condiments for on-site food consumption, those items must be provided in:

- Reusable containers
- Bulk dispensers
- Non-plastic packaging



Individual single-use plastic condiment packages are prohibited for on-site use.

Some non-plastic disposable items are allowed including straws, food wrappers, sleeves and bags, napkins, plate liners, straws and stirrers, and toothpicks used for food preparation.


PROVIDE ACCESSORIES ONLY WHEN WANTED

Accessory items such as straws or stirrers used on site and utensils for takeout orders can be provided only when customers want them – upon request or affirmative response when asked – or made available in a self service area. This requirement that accessories be provided only when wanted includes when customers are ordering food through on-line platforms.

STOP USING CERTAIN SINGLE-USE PLASTICS



The following are prohibited:

- x Sale, use, and distribution of food ware and accessories made of polystyrene  – foam or rigid forms.
- x Single-use plastic bags for leftovers or takeout food. Recycled paper bags are preferred.
- x Plastic straws or stirrers – unless needed for patrons with disabilities.

All “compostable” bioplastics are considered “plastic” for the purposes of this ordinance.



Requirements Effective **January 1, 2023**

USE ONLY FIBER-BASED DISPOSABLE FOOD WARE AND ACCESSORIES



All disposable items must be made of fiber-based compostable material such as paper, sugarcane, bamboo, wood, etc.

The following larger items must be made of CERTIFIED, fiber-based compostable material:

- Plates
- Bowls
- Cups
- Clamshells
- Boxes
- Containers

Go Beyond...

Use other reusable items such as straws and napkins when possible.

Single use plastic disposable food ware are allowed until January 1, 2023. Choose items that have the best chance of being recycled.

Have information for customers about how to properly manage their disposable items when they get home.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

We want to help you succeed!

The City is providing businesses with \$750 to help them comply with this new ordinance. The money can be used for reusable food ware, polystyrene alternatives, and for other compliant food ware. Please see the program information on our website, www.yoursustainablecity.com. Additional funds may be available for those that need to make capital improvements to accommodate a dish washer.

The City is also hiring an expert consultant to help you evaluate your processes, provide reuse recommendations, and assist you in identifying appropriate food ware alternatives. These actions will not only help you comply but may also **help you save money!** Please reach out to the Office of Sustainability at 760-323-8248.

DON'T THINK YOU CAN COMPLY?

The City can issue limited feasibility waivers for businesses in the event that some businesses may have unique items that cannot be substituted or when alternative products or reusables are not feasible. Please reach out to the Office of Sustainability at 760-323-8248 for waiver forms.

