



Clean LA
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Reduction of Waste from Single-Use Articles and Expanded Polystyrene Products Ordinance

Reduction of Waste from Single-Use Articles and Expanded Polystyrene Products Ordinance

Trash the Disposable Lifestyle

The County of Los Angeles continues to take action to address plastic pollution. Ordinance 22-0016 (also known as the Reduction of Waste from Single-Use Articles and Expanded Polystyrene Products Ordinance) has been added to the County Code to promote reusable foodware and reduce single-use plastic distribution from food service operations and retail establishments located in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County and at County facilities.

Effective dates



June 1, 2022

Restaurants, bars, and other permanent, temporary, and mobile food service facilities are to continue to only provide single-use foodware accessories upon request or confirmation by the customer. They are also to continue providing information about the availability of single-use food accessories on any food-ordering online platforms used. Third-party food ordering online businesses are to continue providing a statement on their platform if food service establishments choose not to provide single-use foodware accessories on their menu. Full-service restaurants must use multiuse utensils and food/drink/condiment containers for dine-in service.



May 1, 2023

Food facilities such as full-service and fast-food restaurants, bars and hospitality venues offering full-service, takeout, delivery and catering operations, must cease using single-use foodware articles like cups, plates, utensils, straws and condiment containers that are not compostable or recyclable and cease providing food to retail customers on food trays and egg cartons that are not compostable or recyclable. Retail establishments must cease selling, renting or offering expanded polystyrene products.



November 1, 2023

Food trucks, mobile and temporary food services (except street vendors), must cease using non-compostable and non-recyclable single-use foodware articles.



May 1, 2024

All farmers' markets, catering operations and temporary food service establishments must cease using non-compostable and non-recyclable single-use foodware articles.

How to Comply with the Ordinance

Food service and retail establishments:

Do	Don't
• Use multiservice utensils & foodware (metal, glass, ceramic) for dine-in orders • Provide reusable, compostable or recyclable single-use cup lids, spill plugs or hot beverage sleeves with drive-through orders without request for safety purposes. • Provide compostable single-use takeout food and beverage containers • Provide compostable napkins or placemats • May use single-use foil wrappers • May provide compostable straws • May provide condiments for dine-in customers in reusable containers, bulk and/or self-serve dispensers or non-plastic packaging	• Do not automatically provide foodware accessories to customers with orders • Do not provide plastic takeout food and beverage containers • Do not provide non-compostable and non-recyclable single-use accessories (straw, utensil, etc.) • Do not sell, rent, or offer expanded polystyrene products • Do not provide food to retail customers on a non-compostable and non-recyclable food tray or egg carton

Food ordering online platforms:

Do	Don't
• Allow food service establishments to state which single-use compostable or recyclable foodware accessories they offer if any (Individual accessories to be an option without bundling of multiple utensils) • Provide a statement on platform if food service establishments choose not to provide single-use foodware accessories on their menu • Allow grocery retailers to customize menus and state which single-use compostable or recyclable foodware accessories they offer if any (Individual accessories to be an option without bundling of multiple utensils)	• Do not provide an option for food service establishments to provide non-compostable and non-recyclable single-use foodware accessories • Do not default to provide single-use foodware accessories without request or confirmation



Non-Compliance and Enforcement

Non-compliance and violations could result in fines up to \$100 per day, up to \$1000 per year and criminal prosecution. Civil action and civil penalties, however, could result in up to \$1000 per day for each violation with no maximum penalty.

What's at Stake

Plastic products, such as those made of expanded polystyrene, do not biodegrade and are rarely recycled. The eight million tons of plastic that enter our oceans each year break down into smaller microplastics and wreak havoc on our wildlife and are destroying our ocean ecosystems. Microplastics are also found in a wide range of food and drink products consumed by humans. If we continue living a disposable lifestyle, by weight, our oceans will have more plastic than fish by the year 2050.

For Technical Assistance and Resources

Visit: CleanLA.com

Email: SUPOrdinance@pw.lacounty.gov

Call: (888) CleanLA / (888) 253-2652

