

# Single Use Plastic Reduction Ordinance

Citywide compliance required starting April 1, 2024

- Distribution of most polystyrene foam containers is prohibited. This includes food service ware such as bowls, plates, trays, cups, lids and other similar items, as well as egg cartons and meat trays.
- Single-use plastic (and bio-plastic) straws and utensils may only be provided upon the request of the customer.
- Single-use plastic (and bio-plastic) straws and utensils can be offered to customers or provided at self-service stations.
- The following may not be distributed if made from polystyrene foam unless encased within another material: coolers, ice chests, or similar containers, pool or beach toys, dock floats, mooring buoys, or anchor or navigation markers.
- All polystyrene foam products are prohibited from City facilities (including parks and beaches).



**\*NOTE:** The automatic waiver for small businesses with a gross income of \$500,000 or less expires March 31, 2024. Waivers may be available for feasibility-based hardship and financial hardship. Exemptions are available if your business was impacted by the Jan. 22, 2024 storm. For a waiver application, email [sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov](mailto:sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov).

## Alternatives to Polystyrene Foam

MATERIAL	PRODUCT	COMMENTS
<b>Preferred</b>		
Reusable service ware	Reusable plates, bowls and cups.	Wash and reuse.
Paper	Bowls, plates, trays, cups, hinged containers and boxes.	Recyclable if dry and free of food.
Aluminum	Trays, lidded containers, wrap.	Recyclable if free of food.
Plastic (rigid, non-foam)	Bowls, plates, trays, cups, lids and hinged containers.	Recyclable if free of food.
<b>Not Preferred</b>		
“Compostable” and “biodegradable” plastic, sugarcane, bagasse, bamboo, molded fiber and other similar items.	Bowls, plates, trays, cups, hinged containers, boxes, lids, wrap.	Not recyclable; must be placed in the trash. Not accepted in local recycling or composting programs. Does not help San Diego reach its zero-waste goals.

Ask your current supplier about alternatives to polystyrene foam or check out our web page at [sandiego.gov/pf-ban](http://sandiego.gov/pf-ban).

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