

Dear Customer,

This letter is to inform food service businesses that the use of plastic utensils, plastic straws, and plastic cocktail picks will be prohibited in Seattle effective July 1, 2018. Compliant options include durable or compostable utensils, straws, and cocktail picks. Compliant straws include those made of compostable paper or compostable plastic. Utensils banned include disposable plastic forks, plastic spoons, plastic knives, and plastic cocktail picks.

Timeline: In 2008, the City of Seattle put in place an ordinance to require that one-time-use food service items, including packaging and utensils, be recyclable or compostable. Seattle Public Utilities has provided a year-by-year exemption for a handful of items, including plastic utensils and straws. Plastic utensils and straws are not recyclable. There are now multiple manufacturers of approved compostable utensils and straws, these food service items will no longer be exempt from the existing requirements.

Enforcement: SPU staff continue to perform inspections of all food service businesses to verify compliance with Seattle Municipal Code Section 21.36.084 and 21.36.086 which require that:

- Food service businesses are required to use compostable or recyclable food serviceware (effective 7/1/2010).
- Use of collection bins and collection service for compostables and recyclables is required (effective 7/1/2010).
- Use of expanded polystyrene foam food service packaging is prohibited (effective 1/1/2009).
- Use of plastic utensils and plastic straw food serviceware is prohibited (effective 7/1/2018).
- Failure to comply with the food service ware ordinance may result in a \$250 fine.

Take Action:

- ✓ Use up your existing inventory of plastic utensils and straws before July 1, 2018. If you are unable to do so, please contact us at the number below to establish a compliance schedule.
- ✓ Choose compliant food serviceware to meet packaging, utensil, and straw requirements.
- ✓ Provide utensils and straws only on request, and use dispensers for customers to select their own utensils and straws, if not already a current practice.
- ✓ Designate clearly marked collection containers for recyclables and compostables in employee and customer areas.
- ✓ Arrange for commercial collection service of compostable and recyclable materials.

Free Assistance:

Contact SPU via GreenBusiness@Seattle.Gov or 206-343-8505 or visit the SPU website at seattle.gov/util/GreenYourBusiness for additional information. At the website, you can order a variety of free materials, including posters and stickers, to help you communicate to your employees and customers about what is compostable and recyclable and what is required in Seattle. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to helping Seattle save resources and reduce waste.

Sincerely,

Seattle Public Utilities
Green Business Program

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.
如需口譯服務請電 206-684-3000。
통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000 번으로 전화해 주십시오.
Wixii adeegyada turjubaanka fadlan wac 206-684-3000.
Para servicios de traducción, por favor llame al 206-684-3000.
Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.
Muốn yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch xin gọi số 206-684-3000.

Summary of Seattle's Food Serviceware Requirements: (SMC 21.36.086)

! **Ban of plastic straws and plastic utensils is effective July 1, 2018.**

Food service businesses are prohibited from using plastic straws and plastic utensils in Seattle. The temporary exemption for plastic straws and plastic utensils will expire, and the use of compostable straws and compostable utensils will be required, effective July 1, 2018.



<p>BANNED</p>  <p>Disposable Plastic Straws</p>	<p>ALLOWED</p>  <p>Compostable* Paper Straws and Compostable* Plastic Straws</p>	<p>BANNED</p>  <p>Disposable Plastic Utensils</p>	<p>ALLOWED</p>  <p>Compostable* Utensils</p>
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- Effective July 1, 2010, food service businesses are prohibited from selling or providing food for consumption on or off the premises with disposable food serviceware. Food packaging used for dine-in service must be compostable and take-out packaging can be compostable or recyclable.
- Approved compostable indicates packaging and serviceware that has been tested and approved at a local commercial compost facility.

Plastic utensils and plastic straws are banned in Seattle, effective July 1, 2018.

Serviceware allowed for use includes durables or approved compostable utensils and straws.

Los utensilios de plástico y los popotes de plástico están prohibidos en Seattle a partir del 1ero de julio de 2018.

Los únicos utensilios y popotes desechables que están permitidos para uso comercial son aquellos que tienen la etiqueta "compostable"; los cuales están hechos de materiales que se pueden convertir en compost. Los utensilios y popotes reusables están permitidos.

Spanish
Español

2018年7月1日開始，西雅圖禁止使用塑料餐具和塑料吸管。

允許使用的餐具包括認可的可堆肥餐具和吸管。

Chinese
中文

Dụng cụ ăn (thìa, đĩa, đũa) và ống hút dùng một lần bằng nhựa sẽ bị cấm ở Seattle kể từ ngày 1 tháng 7 năm 2018.

Các dụng cụ ăn dùng một lần được phép sử dụng bao gồm thìa, đĩa, đũa và ống hút được công nhận là có thể phân hủy được gọi là compostable.

Vietnamese
Tiếng Việt

플라스틱 식기와 플라스틱 빨대는 2018년 7월

서비스를 위해 사용이 허용된 식기는 오직 분해 가능한 것으로 승인된 식기와 빨대만 포함합니다.

Korean
한국어



FOR DETAILS ABOUT APPROVED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS, GO TO:
seattle.gov/util/GreenYourBusiness