

Food Service Requirements

RECYCLING: Seattle businesses are not allowed to put recyclable items in the garbage.

COMPOSTING: Seattle businesses are not allowed to put food and compostable paper in the garbage.

PACKAGING: Seattle food service businesses are not allowed to use disposable food service items. Single-use food and beverage packaging must be recyclable or compostable (see below).



Recyclables Not Allowed in Garbage:

Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.083)

Requires all businesses to recycle paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, plastic and paper cups, plastic bottles and jars, aluminum and tin cans. It is against the law to put these items in the garbage.

(Effective July 1, 2014)



Food Not Allowed in Garbage:

Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.082)

Requires all businesses to compost all food and food-soiled uncoated paper, such as paper napkins, paper towels and pizza boxes. It is against the law to put these items in the garbage.

(Effective January 1, 2015)

Food Packaging Ordinance: Seattle Municipal Code (21.36.086)



Dine-in: Restaurants and food service businesses **must use compostable items or durable serviceware** for dine-in service.

(Effective July 1, 2010)



Take-out: Packaging **must be either recyclable or compostable** for take-out service. Plastic coated brown paper packaging is prohibited.

(Update effective July 1, 2023)



Compostable Serviceware:

Single-use straws, utensils, and portion cups must be compostable. Disposable plastic items are prohibited.

(Update effective July 1, 2023*)



Foam Banned:

Businesses are **prohibited from using plastic foam** (EPS, Styrofoam™) packaging.

(Effective January 1, 2009)

***Flexible plastic straws are allowed when required by customer for physical or medical condition.**

Washington State Laws:



Single Use Law: RCW 70A.245.080

Businesses may not automatically include single-use items in customer orders, including plastic utensils, straws, condiment packages, and cup lids for cold beverages.

(Effective January 1, 2022)



Bag Ban: Chapter 70A.530 RCW

Single-use plastic carryout bags are prohibited in food service businesses, grocery, and retail. The selling and using of green plastic bags is prohibited.

(Effective October 1, 2021)



Compostables Labeling: RCW 70A.455

Compostable packaging products must be properly labeled as 'Compostable' and include markings to identify them such as green/brown stripes and/or approval marking.

(Enforcement begins July 1, 2024)

Reduce waste and save money by keeping recyclable and compostable material out of the landfill and switching from single-use to reusable service items for on-premise service.

Contact GreenBusiness@Seattle.Gov for free assistance and resources for complying with these ordinances.

Order FREE posters and bin labels or create your own custom posters at seattle.gov/utilities/ForBusinesses/SolidWaste/FoodYardBusinesses/Commercial/WastePosterOrderForm.

Restaurant Dining Area (Set of Three)

<p>Food + Compost</p> <p>Food</p> <p>Food Soiled Paper</p> <p>Decomposed Paper Plates</p> <p>Approved COMPOSTABLE Packaging & Serviceware</p> <p>NO PLASTIC. NO METAL. NO GLASS.</p>	<p>Recycle</p> <p>Clean Cans & Bottles</p> <p>Empty Cups & Cartons</p> <p>Clean Plastic Containers & Lids</p> <p>Clean Dry Paper</p> <p>ITEMS MUST BE EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY.</p>	<p>Garbage</p> <p>Plastic Wrap, Bags, Wrappers & Small Packages</p> <p>Food-Soiled Containers & Foil</p> <p>Dirty!</p> <p>Plastic Disposable Utensils</p> <p>Small Caps & Lids</p> <p>Plastic Disposable Straws</p> <p>Foam Containers & Trays</p> <p>No Recyclables. No Compostables.</p>
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Restaurant Kitchen Collection (Multiple languages available)

RECOLECCIÓN COMERCIAL

Alimentos con capacidad de Compost

Ni Plástico. Ni Metal. Ni Vidrio.

Alimentos

Papel para alimentos usado

Embalaje aprobado para Compost

Plantas y flores

Reciclaje

Basura

Custom Posters Available

COMPOST

Food & Paper Wraps, Napkins, Sweetener Packets, Flatware, Straws & Stir Sticks

RECYCLE

Clean Paper & Cardboard, Empty Paper & Plastic Cups, Empty Cans & Bottles

GARBAGE

Foil Wrappers & Condiment Containers

DURABLES

Please Place Reusable Items Here

Compost

Recycle

Garbage

Durables

Choose Reusables with Reuse Seattle!

ReuseSeattle

Join a growing number of businesses and partners to move from single-use to reuse. Learn more at: ReuseSeattle.org

Collection Service Providers - Are you experiencing missed collection or service issues? Contact your service provider!

RECOLOGY CLEANSCAPES

GARBAGE | RECYCLING | COMPOSTING

206-250-7500

info@recologycleanscapes.com

WASTE MANAGEMENT

GARBAGE | RECYCLING | COMPOSTING

800-592-9995

recyclenw@wm.com

REPUBLIC SERVICES

RECYCLING | COMPOSTING

206-332-7777

infoseattle@republicservices.com

CEDAR GROVE

RECYCLING | COMPOSTING

877-994-4466

help@cgcompost.com

SEADRUNAR RECYCLING

206-467-7550

info@seadrunarrecycling.com

Vendor Information

Contact Green Business Program for more packaging, bin, and service information.

Compostable Packaging

Contacts for suppliers and manufacturers of compostable and recyclable packaging

bit.ly/spu-food-packaging

Indoor Collection Bins

Contacts for suppliers and manufacturers of interior collection bins.

Collection Services

Contacts for service providers for compostables and recyclables collection.