



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.



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Resources

**Free assistance for food service businesses to
comply with food packaging requirements.**

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)



Restaurant Kitchen Collection (Multiple languages available)



Custom Posters Available



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.



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EnviroStars



bit.ly/SPUGBP

For interpretation services please call SPU at 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.
Mướn yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch xin gọi số 206-684-3000.