



FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES

REUSABLE IS BEST



Single-use disposable plates, cups, and cutlery may seem economical and convenient, but replacing these items with alternatives that can be reused, recycled or composted can reduce costs, minimize waste, and attract new customers.

Reusables cost more per item to purchase than their disposable counterparts, but they are more durable and can be used thousands of times. Over time, replacing disposable with reusable tableware can drastically reduce the cost of doing business by minimizing the number of disposables purchased and the associated garbage hauling fees incurred for disposal of these items.

Use this calculator to determine your breakeven point for the cost of reusable items. The breakeven point is the number of uses required to recover your investment. As soon as you exceed the breakeven point for a particular item, you'll be saving money.

Breakeven point calculator:

Cost of reusable (each) = \$_____ ÷ Cost of disposable item (each) = \$_____ Breakeven point = _____ uses

Example: Reusable cup = \$1.00 each ÷ Disposable cup = \$0.05 each Breakeven point = 20 uses

AFTER THAT YOU ARE SAVING MONEY!



FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES

FIBER COMPOSTABLE IS GREAT



Products made entirely from uncoated paper or plant fibers are accepted in the residential and commercial green container within Sonoma County as they break down easily in a commercial composting facility or in a backyard compost pile. Note that **compostable plastics are not accepted** in the green container for a variety of reasons.

Please refer to the Supplier List below to purchase uncoated paper products for your food/beverage establishment.

Fiber compostable

- Uncoated white / natural plant fiber and paper products
- Uncoated white / natural deli and parchment paper
- Paper napkins
- 100% wood, bamboo or palm leaf products
- **Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) www.bpiworld.org/** America's leading certifier of compostable products and packaging. The organization ensures independent testing and verification according to scientifically based standards.

BPI certified fiber products are preferred.



FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES

RECYCLABLE IS GREAT



Recyclables The following items should be clean and empty:

- Plastic drinking cups and containers larger than 4" in diameter
- Plastic clamshells or other to-go containers
- Aluminum trays
- *PET #1 and HDPE #2 plastic items are preferred over PVC #3- # Other 7 plastics, as they are the most common and easiest to recycle

*Postconsumer recycled content products support manufacturers that use recyclables collected through curbside or commercial pickup and require less virgin plastic to produce

NOT ACCEPTED

Compostable plant/bio-plastic products (Although technically biodegradable, they cannot be composted locally.)

- Coated paper food containers (If it has a shiny surface, it is likely coated.)
- Plastic utensils
- Plastic sids/dressing cups (Plastics smaller than 4" in diameter can't be recycled locally.)
- Plastic lids for cups
- Plastic bags/plastic wrap
- Polystyrene foam (Styrofoam)
- Plastic water bottles
- Plastic Straws

If an item is not recyclable or compostable at local facilities, it must be sent to the landfill.

Exemptions will be allowed for disposable hot beverage or soup containers, as there are no truly compostable or recyclable products available at this time.



SUPPLIER LIST FOOD SERVICE WARE ALTERNATIVES

COMPANY NAME	CONTACT INFO	RECYCLABLE PRODUCTS	COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS	REUSABLE PRODUCTS	WEBSITE
Armstrong Paper Group COTATI	707-546-6300		X		
Cogent Solutions & Supplies RICHMOND	510-307-4242	X	X		www.oakpackaging.com
Cotati Food Service COTATI	707-795-4489	X	X	X	www.cotatifoodservice.com
Excellent Packaging and Supply RICHMOND	800-317-2737 sales@excellentpackaging.com		X		www.excellentpackaging.com
Fishman Supply PETALUMA	Leland Fishman Lfishman@fishmansupply.com 707-763-8161	X	X		www.fishmansupply.com
Green is Green MILL VALLEY	info@greenisgreeninc.com 415-571-8187		X		www.greenisgreeninc.com
JTR Area Distributors SAN JOSE	Kim Taylor ktaylor@areadistributing.com 408-975-7733	X	X		www.aredistributing.com
Mike Hudson Distributing PETALUMA	Jamie Kensett jkensett@mikehudsondist.com 800-654-3636	X	X		www.mikehudsondist.com

MORE INFO: ZEROWASTESONOMA.GOV/POLYSTYRENE-MODEL-ORDINANCE

UPDATED OCTOBER, 2019

This document, Food Service Ware Alternatives, in no way implies or conveys that Zero Waste Sonoma endorses these suppliers, nor the quality or compliance of their products with respect to the Disposable Food Service Ware and Polystyrene Foam Product Waste Reduction Ordinance. The list is provided as a courtesy, for informational purposes only, and is not a complete list of suppliers. It is the responsibility of anyone who uses this list to verify the qualifications and compliance of each product prior to purchase from the supplier. The agency is not responsible for any expenses that may be associated with using the list of suppliers.



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Moresco Distributing PETALUMA	Joe Conte jconte@moresco.biz 707-773-2500x110	X	X		www.moresco.biz
Palo Alto Foods, Inc. NEWARK	sales@paloaltofoods.com 510-456-2420x1	X	X		www.paloaltofoods.com
PFG Northern California LIVERMORE	800-233-6211	X	X	X	www.performancefoodservice.com
R3 Papercraft Inc. LLC National	Jim Merfeld Jim.merfeld@r3distribution.com 866-987-7373	X	X		www.r3distribution.com
SF Supply Master SAN FRANCISCO	415-642-0700	X	X		www.sfsupplymaster.com
Smart Foodservice Warehouse Stores SANTA ROSA	707-543-5844	X	X	X	www.smartfoodservice.com
Ukiah Paper UKIAH	707-463-2203	X	X	X	www.ukiahpapersupplyinc.com
Veritiv SANTA ROSA	santarosave@veritivcorp.com 707-542-7012		X		www.veritivcorp.com/veritiv-express-santa-rosa-california
Vicor Restaurant Supply SONOMA	Craig Hamilton Craig@vicorsupply.com 707-266-1268	X	X		

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