

WASTE REDUCTION REGULATIONS 101



CITY OF
BURBANK



WASTE REDUCTION
ORDINANCE
ARTICLE 4-2-407

On March 15th, 2024, the City of Burbank adopted a Waste Reduction Ordinance, which updates Title 4, Chapter 2 of the Burbank Municipal Code. The purpose of the Ordinance, which takes effect in phases starting July 1st, 2024, is to protect the environment and the health, safety, and welfare of the public by reducing harmful and excessive waste in restaurants and City facilities:

- + **Beginning July 1, 2024**, no person or business shall sell or distribute polystyrene foodware.
- + **Beginning January 1, 2026**, dine-in customers shall only be served using reusable foodware.

Additionally, food facilities and retail establishments may no longer distribute to customers single-use foodware that is not either compostable or recyclable. All foodware accessories must be “upon request only.”

In summary, the City’s Waste Reduction Ordinance requires businesses to **provide dine-in customers with reusable foodware**, and **to-go customers must request single-use foodware, which must be compostable or disposable.**

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ORDINANCE
DETAILS >>>



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When does this ordinance go into effect?

Effective date is March 15, 2024

Who does this ordinance apply to?

Any food and beverage facility located in Burbank. This includes restaurants, bars, coffee shops, fast food restaurants, food carts, grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, school cafeterias, hospitals and nursing facilities, snack bars, food trucks, juice bars, farmers markets, and temporary food facilities, such as those participating in fairs or events.

What is banned?

Single-use plastics that are black, plastics #3, #4, #6, and #7, bioplastics, coated or lined paper products.

What type of foodware is acceptable for dine-in?

Any form of reusable foodware, cups, and utensils that are intended to be reused for months and years.

What is acceptable for me to serve food in when a customer is getting take-out or delivery?

Any container that is compostable or recyclable in Burbank.

What is considered a “compostable container”?

Containers that are natural fiber and PFAS-free (look for third-party, such as BPI certification). No “compostable” or bioplastics are allowed under the law.

What is considered a “recyclable container”?

Containers that are not black in color, and made of plastic #1, #2, or #5, or aluminum, paper, or cardboard.

Must I ask every customer if their order is dine-in (“for here”) or take-out (“to go”)?

Yes. This how you establish what to serve the food in. For dine-in, use reusable foodware, cups, and utensils. For take-out, use compostable or recyclable compliant product containers.

Why are bioplastics not allowed?

Bioplastics, or “compostable” plastics are not recyclable and are often rejected by compost facilities as they do not break down or add nutritional value to the compost as traditional organic materials do.

Will plastic straws and utensils still be available for customers with disabilities?

Yes. Customers with disabilities who request plastic straws or utensils shall be provided with the requested accessories.

Why are single-use plastics bad?

They are produced from non-renewable resources, designed to be disposable, and they are often collected during beach clean-ups. Single-use plastics remain in the marine environment for centuries.

Are waivers available?

Yes. Per the approval by the Director, waivers are available if:

- 1) Compliance with this article will result in undue hardship because of a food facility’s lack of space.
- 2) Compliance with this article will result in an undue financial hardship for a food facility.
- 3) No suitable products are available.

During the waiver term, the food facility shall make diligent efforts to become compliant. It is the responsibility of the food facility to apply for any waivers or extensions in a timely manner.

What are the penalties?

- + **FIRST VIOLATION:** \$100 per violation
- + **SECOND VIOLATION:** \$200 per violation
- + **THIRD VIOLATION:** \$500 per violation