

City of Sebastopol Event Food Service Ware Requirements for Vendors

❖ Permit applications must have signed copies of this document from each participating vendor

General Guidelines:

- Events are strongly encouraged to use 100% reusable food service ware.
- All items must be reusable, recyclable, or a fiber-based compostable product (see below for allowed items).
- Promotional materials should encourage attendees to bring their own reusable water bottle, cup, plate, and cutlery.
- Single-use plastics and “compostable” plastics (PLA) are prohibited (including plastic bottled water). Exception: #1 PETE clear plastic cups.

Waste Diversion Hierarchy



ALLOWED

Compostable Items*:

- Uncoated white/natural plant fiber & paper products (straws, bowls, deli boats, etc.) including bagasse products (sugar cane fiber)
- Uncoated white/natural deli paper & parchment paper
- Paper napkins/towels (any color).
- 100% wood or bamboo products (cutlery, chopsticks, stirring sticks, etc.)

Recyclable Items:

- Aluminum cans & (clean) foil
- Glass bottles and jars (empty with lids on)
- #1 PETE clear plastic cups

Paper “hot cups”

Important: Coated paper cups are not currently accepted in the compost or recycling streams in Sonoma County (even if they are labeled compostable). They must go in garbage.

*Must be accepted in the commercial compost stream in Sonoma County. If an item is not recyclable or compostable at our local facilities, it must be sent to the landfill as trash—even if it is labeled “compostable” or suppliers claim otherwise.

NOT ALLOWED

Single-use disposable plastic service ware:

- Single-use plastic utensils, clamshells, sides/dressing cups, lids
- Disposable plastic water bottles
- Plastic bags/plastic wrap
- Polystyrene (Styrofoam)
- Plastic Straws
- Sauce packets (ketchup, soy sauce, etc)

All #6 PS plastics, including non-foam plates and cups (prohibited under the Sebastopol polystyrene ordinance).

“Compostable” plant/bio-plastic products/ PLA plastics **

Coated paper food containers (If it has a shiny surface/ moisture barrier, it is likely coated). Exception: paper coffee cups for hot beverages.

Foil for serving food in

- When food is served in foil, patrons often do not separate food scraps from the foil, resulting in a high contamination rate in compost receptacles.

**Although technically compostable in certain facilities, compost facilities serving Sonoma County do not currently accept these items; therefore, these products are not compostable in Sonoma County.

I have read the above and agree to only use food service ware from the “Allowed” column. I also agree to maintain my own “back of house” three-bin separation (compost/recycle/garbage) and empty my sorted waste into the appropriate compost, recycle, garbage receptacles at the end of the event.

Vendor name: _____ Vendor signature: _____ Date: _____

LOCAL LAW THAT APPLIES TO EVENTS:

[Sebastopol Polystyrene Ban and disposable food service ware ordinance :](#)

sebastopol.municipal.codes/SMC/8.36.010

Municipal Code 8.36

- Polystyrene (styrofoam) food service ware and sales prohibited: “Food providers shall not sell, hand out, give away, distribute or otherwise make available for public or customer use prepared food in disposable food service ware that contains polystyrene foam.” Section 8.36.030
- All food service ware take-out containers must be recyclable or compostable: (See list of permitted food service ware at end of document): “All food providers utilizing any disposable food service ware shall use, when such products are commercially available, a compostable product that is accepted at local compost facilities or recyclable product.” Section 8.36.060
- “All food providers shall only provide lids, cutlery, to-go condiment packages, and paper straws upon request of customers.” Section 8.36.060
- Plastic straws banned (paper straws permitted).