

Santa Cruz is a polystyrene free zone!

Polystyrene plastic is not recyclable in the City's recycling program. Once discarded this material persists in the environment for hundreds of years. It is made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource.



The Single-Use Bag Reduction Ordinance Stipulates:

- Businesses in the City of Santa Cruz are restricted from distributing plastic carry-out bags at the point of sale. Businesses must place a 25¢ charge on paper carry-out bags.
- The ordinance does not apply to restaurants at this time. A restaurant is defined as a person or business whose principal business is the sale of prepared food.

City of Santa Cruz Ordinance 6.49

Enforcement: The ordinance will be enforced through citizen complaints received about violators. All food service providers must comply, including businesses, schools, city offices, churches and special events.

Exemptions: There are no exemptions that allow for the use of polystyrene/plastic foam disposable food service ware. The Director of Public Works, or the Director's designee, may exempt a food provider from the requirement set forth in section 6.48.25(a) of this ordinance for a one-year period upon the food provider showing, in writing, that this ordinance would create an undue hardship or practical difficulty not generally applicable to other persons in similar circumstances.

These ordinances are mandatory.

Fines will be levied for non-compliance.

Copies of the full ordinances are available at: www.cityofsantacruz.com/to-go-ware

Help Protect the Bay,
Become a Certified Green Business



Certified Green Businesses conserve energy and water, reduce waste, and help prevent air and water pollution.

montereybaygreenbusiness.org

Use environmentally acceptable food service ware, products, and packaging.

Good for business and good for the Bay



Public Works Department

809 Center Street, Room 201

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

www.cityofsantacruz.com/to-go-ware

831-420-5593



A Guide for the
City of Santa Cruz

Environmentally Acceptable Packaging and Products

Ordinance 6.48



Acceptable Packaging



Your Required Check List:

- ✓ All disposable service ware and cold cups are Fiber based
- ✓ All disposable service ware is BPI* or other 3rd party certified PFAS* Free
- ✓ All Hot disposable cups are fiber based and/or lined with BPI* certified PLA Lining
- ✓ Utensils are Fiber Based
- ✓ Straws are Fiber Based
- ✓ Utensils, straws, lids and condiments given only upon request across all ordering platforms
- ✓ Charging an extra 25¢ for all hot/cold cups sold containing beverage
- ✓ Receipt contains line item for charge
- ✓ Signage to customers of cup charge
- ✓ Safety Protocols set up to accept Customer Cups and Containers

Facts about Acceptable Packaging

- Q** Are beverage bottles and cans acceptable?
- A** Beverages served in cans are desirable because aluminum and bi-metal are highly recyclable. Bottled water and soda are acceptable because the containers can be recycled.
- Q** What does, “Upon request” mean?
- A** Employees must ask customers if they want; straws, utensils, condiments and lids* included with their order. Self-serve stations are permitted.
- Q** How do we manage “Upon request” with our website or 3rd party delivery company?
- A** Software updates should be made to allow the customer to “Opt in” to each accessory item.
- Q** Who keeps the 25¢ collected for disposable cups and bags?
- A** This fee remains with the business.

Are You Good to-Go?



Fiber Based BPI*
or other Certification

Wood or Bamboo Accessories
upon request only



NO Polystyrene – Rigid or Foam
NO Bio Plastic
NO PFAS*

***PFAS** (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many other chemicals.

***BPI®** is short for Biodegradable Products Institute. BPI® is an association that was established to provide testing, education and promotion of compostable products.

