

# Sustainable Foodservice Purchasing Guide

## PRODUCT AND PURCHASING GUIDELINES FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Single-use items have a lasting impact on our environment long after being used for a short period of time. The best way for residents and businesses to reduce the impact of single-use items is to choose reusable alternatives. Using materials you are certain can be recycled is also a good option. Visit [metrovancover.org](http://metrovancover.org) and search "single-use" for more information about single-use regulations.

	COLD BEVERAGES	HOT BEVERAGES	CONTAINERS FOR DRY FOODS	CONTAINERS FOR WET OR HOT FOODS	UTENSILS
 <b>BEST</b>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reusable cups for on-site dining</li> <li>• Reusable cups brought by customers</li> <li>• Participate in a cup share program</li> </ul>		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reusable containers for on-site dining</li> <li>• Participate in a container share program</li> </ul>		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reusable utensils for on-site dining</li> </ul>
 <b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cups made from an easily recyclable plastic (#1 PET, #5 PP)</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper cups lined with plastic</li> <li>• Easily recyclable plastic or fibre lids (#1 PET, #5 PP)</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlined paper/fibre containers</li> <li>• Containers made from easily recyclable plastic (#1 PET, #5 PP)</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aluminum containers</li> <li>• Heat safe plastic (#5 PP)</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncoated wood utensils</li> <li>• <i>Distribute by request only</i></li> </ul>
 <b>BANNED</b>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic cups and lids labelled "compostable" or "biodegradable"</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foam cups</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic containers and lids labelled "compostable" or "biodegradable"</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foam containers</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic utensils</li> <li>• Plastic utensils labelled "compostable" or "biodegradable"</li> </ul>

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### QUICK FACTS

- Reusable items are the best option
- Choose products that contain recycled content
- Choose uncoated wood products over bamboo
- Choose easily recyclable plastics (#1 PET, #5 PP)
- Most paper products are compostable
- Paper products coated with plastic cannot be composted
- Compostable plastics are not accepted in municipal composting and recycling programs – many compostable plastics do not break down at regional composting facilities

### BAGS



- Distribute by-request only
- Source high quality reusable bags that are durable enough to withstand long term, repeated use and cleaning
- If using paper bags, choose bags that contain at least 40% recycled paper content
- Avoid plastic bags

### STRAWS



- Use sippy cup lids that don't require straws
- Distribute paper straws by-request only
- Avoid plastic straws – including plastic straws labelled “compostable or biodegradable”