

Quick Facts

Reusables are the most sustainable option.

Studies clearly show that reusable products have the lowest environmental impacts.

Plastic containers and cups made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polypropylene (PP) are easily recycled in British Columbia.

BC has created a system that allows these plastic containers to be recycled.

Paper products are compostable.

Ideally, these paper products are not coated with plastic.

Plastics labelled as “compostable” are a challenge for composting and recycling programs in BC.

Even when certified, many compostable plastics may not break down at regional composting facilities and are also not recyclable.

Learn more at victoria.ca/reducesingleuse or email us at zerowaste@victoria.ca

Sustainable Takeout Guide

Product and Purchasing Guidelines for Victoria's Food Service Businesses



Disclaimer: This guide is not intended to inform food safety. Businesses must follow food safe procedures established by the local health authority.



CUPS

COLD BEVERAGES

HOT BEVERAGES

CONTAINERS

DRY FOODS

WET OR HOT FOODS

UTENSILS

BEST

Reusable

- ✓ Provide reusable cups for on-site dining
- ✓ Consider participating in a reusable cup-sharing program
- ✓ Choose durable reusable cups that can be used and washed many times
- ✓ Choose reusable cups that can be recycled at end of life

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
Reusable

- ✓ Provide reusable utensils for on-site dining

GOOD

Recyclable plastic



- ✓ Choose products made from a single plastic material 
- ✓ Ask your supplier for products that meet the Association for Plastic Recyclers guidelines


Paper



- ✓ Choose paper cups lined with recyclable plastic
- ✓ Choose recyclable plastic or paper lids
- ✓ Choose a paper sleeve made with high recycled content


Recyclable plastic or compostable fiber



- ✓ Choose products made from a single plastic material 
- ✓ Choose unlined, paper/fiber containers
- ✓ Ask your supplier for products that meet the Association for Plastic Recyclers guidelines

Recyclable plastic, aluminum, or lined paper



- ✓ Choose heat safe plastic 
- ✓ Choose paper containers lined with wax or recyclable plastic
- ✓ Choose aluminum containers with a cardboard lid

Wood-fiber or bamboo



- ✓ Choose uncoated wood products over bamboo where possible

AVOID

Compostable plastic

- ✗ Avoid cups and lids that look like plastic but are labeled as compostable or biodegradable

Foam

- ✗ Avoid foam cups



Compostable plastic

- ✗ Avoid containers that look like plastic but are labeled as compostable or biodegradable

Foam

- ✗ Avoid foam containers
- ✗ Avoid foam lids for use with aluminum containers



- ✗ Avoid plastic utensils
- ✗ Avoid utensils that look like plastic but are labeled as compostable or biodegradable