

## 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.

### Most paper products are compostable.

Paper products coated with plastic cannot be composted.

### 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.

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For a list of product suppliers and other business resources visit [victoria.ca/reducesingleuse](https://victoria.ca/reducesingleuse)

**Questions?** Email: [zerowaste@victoria.ca](mailto: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



## Reusable

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- ✓ Consider participating in a reusable container-sharing program
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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 or aluminum



- ✓ Choose heat safe plastic 
- ✓ Choose aluminum containers with a cardboard lid
- ✓ Ask your supplier for products that meet the Association for Plastic Recyclers guidelines

## Wood-fiber or bamboo



- ✓ Choose uncoated wood products over bamboo where possible
- ✓ Distribute only on request

### 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