

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.

Plastic containers must be clean and placed in the correct bin for recycling.

Unlined paper products are compostable.

Paper products coated with plastic should not be composted.

Plastic food ware labelled as “compostable” is banned under Provincial regulations. All plastic cutlery including compostable plastic, and foam food ware is banned under Federal regulations.

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

Questions? Email: 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

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



Reusable

- ✓ Provide reusable utensils for on-site dining

OKAY

Recyclable plastic



- ✓ Choose products made from a single plastic material
- ✓ Ask your supplier for products that meet the Association of 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 fibre



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

Wood-fibre



- ✓ Choose uncoated wood or moulded pulp products over bamboo if possible
- ✓ Distribute only on request

BANNED

Compostable plastic

- ✗ Compostable and biodegradable plastic cups and lids are banned in BC



Foam

- ✗ Foam cups are banned federally



Compostable plastic

- ✗ Compostable and biodegradable plastic containers are banned in BC



Foam

- ✗ Foam containers and lids are banned federally



- ✗ Plastic utensils (including compostable) are banned federally

