

# New Foodware and Produce Bag Requirements



Effective January 1, 2020

In order to protect our local watersheds and oceans from pollution, reduce litter, and encourage Zero Waste, the City of Palo Alto has banned plastic produce bags, utensils, straws, stirrers, drink plugs, and other small plastic foodware items at grocery stores, markets, farmers markets, and food service establishments (e.g., restaurants, coffee shops, delis, and cafeterias).

**These items must now be reusable or compostable.** The disposable items (i.e., the compostable items) may only be offered upon request or via a self-serve station.

## What You Need To Know:

- You will need to ask for straws, utensils, and stirrer sticks if they are not available at a self-serve station.
- All disposable straws, utensils, stirrer sticks, and other small foodware items are required to be compostable and accepted in our compost program. Please place them in the green compost container.
- The new compostable produce bags are accepted in our curbside compost program. You can use them at home to contain your food scraps before placing them in your green compost container.

## Switch To Reusables

Bring your own mug, straw, utensils, takeout containers, produce bags, etc. Palo Alto's long-term plan is to eliminate the use of disposable foodware items. Disposables include items made from recyclable or compostable materials.

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodware)  
zerowaste@cityofpaloalto.org  
(650) 496-5910



Achieving zero waste together

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations to access City facilities, services or programs, or who would like information on the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, may contact the City's ADA Coordinator at (650) 329-2368 (voice) or e-mail [ada@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:ada@cityofpaloalto.org)