

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).

Businesses that offer plastic produce bags or foodware will have to switch to reusable or compostable alternatives. Disposable items (i.e., the compostable items) may only be offered upon request or via a self-serve station.

What Food Service, Grocery Stores and Farmers Markets Need to Know:

- Use only reusable or compostable utensils, straws, stirrers, drink plugs, and other small foodware items.
- Use only compostable produce bags (i.e., bags to hold produce, meat, bulk food, or other food items)
- Compostable items must be acceptable in the City's compost collection program.
- Offer compostable items only upon request or via a self-serve station.

Switch To Reusables

Palo Alto's long-term plan is to require the use of reusable foodware. Using reusables conserves natural resources, prevents waste and litter in our watersheds and ocean, and can save your business money. Free technical assistance is available to help you switch to reusables. Contact Zero Waste Palo Alto for more information.

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