



Compostable Food Serviceware Requirements

Beginning July 1, 2022, food service businesses in Burien must use and provide **compostable** food service products.



PLA Utensils



Fiber utensils



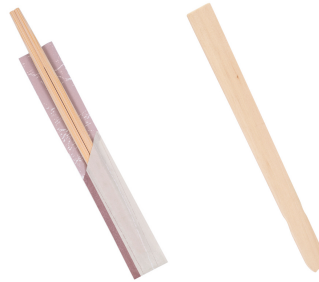
Paper cup lined with PLA



Fiber container



Paper bowl



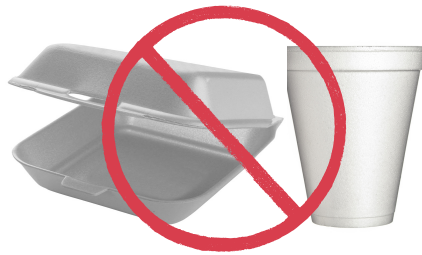
Wood chopsticks and stir sticks



PLA cold cup



Plastic utensils



Styrofoam



Plastic container

The purpose of the ordinance is to promote public health, reduce litter, and limit harmful materials from entering the environment.

For more information:

environment@burienwa.gov · 206-248-5511
burienwa.gov/compostables





Compostable Serviceware Requirements Details

Food service businesses include:

- Restaurants
- Grocery stores
- Delis
- Coffee shops
- Food Trucks
- Booths
- Home delivery services
- Institutional cafeterias and similar



What does compostable mean?

Compostable products are made of material that can be completely broken down, such as plant based plastics (PLA), plant fiber, wood, and paper.

Compostable products meet ASTM D6400 or D6868 standards.

Products required to be compostable:

- Containers
- Plates
- Bowls
- Cups
- Trays
- Cartons
- Chopsticks
- Clamshells
- Knives, forks, spoons
- Meat trays
- Deli rounds
- Splash sticks
- Stirrers
- Portion cups
- Cocktail picks
- Lids
- Other hinged or lidded containers

How can I find compostable product vendors?

You can find vendors who sell compostable products on the City of Burien's website!



Exemptions from the ordinance:

- Prepacked foods*
- Catering trays
- Produce bags
- Clear food wrap and shrink wrap
- Containers for uniquely-shaped foods such as deviled eggs or cupcakes
- Flexible plastic packaging used to preserve moisture and freshness
- Hot meat item containers such as those for ribs and rotisserie chicken
- Straws
- Items that receive a one-year waiver



What if the product says "biodegradable" and not "compostable"?

A large number of products advertised as "eco-friendly" are not compostable and do not break down in the commercial compost system. Be sure the products you buy meet the definition of compostable.

*Prepackaged foods: food service products that have been filled with food and sealed by a separate food service business or food manufacturer prior to receipt by the point of sale food service business.