

Reducing Single-Use Items

Single-use items such as straws, utensils, stirrers and condiment packaging present problems for environmental and human health when they become litter. Acknowledging these problems, Eugene City Council passed an ordinance that places restrictions on the availability of these items. As of June 2019, retail food and beverage establishments **cannot provide these items** unless a customer requests the item or consents to an employee including the item.



What's changing?

Retail food and beverage businesses in Eugene cannot automatically give out **single-use straws, stirrers, utensils or packaged condiments** to customers for dine-in, drive thru, take-out or delivery. These items can only be provided upon the customer's request.

What items are considered "single-use?"

Straws, stirrers, utensils and individually packaged condiments made of any material that is intended to be used once and then discarded. Utensils include, but are not limited to, forks, spoons, knives, sporks, and chopsticks. Condiments include, but are not limited to, individually packaged single servings of ketchup, mustard, relish, mayonnaise, hot sauce, coffee creamer, jelly and jam, and soy sauce.

What about "compostable" products?

This available-upon-request-only policy applies to all single-use items, even those labeled "biodegradable," "compostable" or "made from plants." These items are not accepted in Eugene's Love Food Not Waste program. Reducing single-use items of all types helps reduce litter and negative environmental impacts.

Is this a ban?

No. Retail food businesses are still able to have such items, but they cannot be given to a customer without their consent. Customers must either explicitly ask for these items or must confirm they would like the items following an employee of the retail food and beverage establishment asking the customer.

Which businesses must comply?

Retail food and beverage establishments including:

- Full service restaurants
- Fast food restaurants
- Bars
- Grocery stores
- Hotels and motels
- Food service contractors
- Limited service restaurants
- Food carts
- Coffee and tea shops
- Convenience stores
- Caterers

What are the penalties for businesses that don't comply?

A retail food business will be issued a written warning for the first violation in a calendar year, a \$100 fine for the second violation in a calendar year, a \$200 fine for the third violation in a calendar year, and a \$500 fine for any subsequent violations within the same calendar year.

May I still leave straws, utensils, stirrers and packaged condiments out for customers?

No. Leaving single-use serviceware out for customers is not a permissible way for establishments to provide single-use serviceware to customers.

For more information, visit www.eugene-or.gov/singleuse or contact Anna Reid at areid@eugene-or.gov or 541-682-5463.