

Restaurant Takeout Items: Procurement Guide

See table on Page 2 for specific product recommendations



1. Reusables are best

Even if only offered to customers for on-site use, reusable dishware is the best environmental choice. Compared to disposables, reusable dishware uses far less energy and resources over its lifetime. Even with the energy and water needed to wash 'real' dishware, the overall environmental impact is substantially less than single-use, throw-away items.

We understand reusables may not always be feasible. Below are considerations when choosing disposable containers. There is no "best" disposable product. Each product's environmental impact varies depending on the material, transportation, packaging, etc.

2. Aim for Less Stuff

Use as little packaging as possible, or choose lighter weight products that are made with less (often thinner) plastic or paper. For example:

- Avoid accessories such as straws, lids, sleeves if not necessary
- Instead of offering pre-bundled disposable cutlery and napkins, let customers choose which items they want.

3. Look for Products Made from Recycled Materials

Products made from recycled materials are almost always environmentally better than those made from virgin content – within the same material type. If you're looking for a paper drink cup, a recycled-content paper cup is better than a virgin paper cup. The same applies if you're looking for a plastic drink cup: recycled plastic is better than virgin plastic. The higher the percentage of recycled content, the better.

4. Compostable Isn't Better

Products labeled "compostable," "biodegradable," or "plant-based" are not allowed in compost in Truckee and must go in the trash. While some manufacturers promote their products' ability to break down in the landfill, when things break down in the landfill, they produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas – so what sounds like a good thing actually isn't. Additionally, "compostable" products can be worse for the environment than non-compostable products due to their being made from biobased materials, such as corn, that rely heavily on fossil fuel-based inputs for growing, processing, and transportation.

5. Remember the Bigger Picture

The environmental impact of packaging is far less than the environmental impact of food. The most impactful thing customers and businesses can do is to make the most of the food we buy (avoid wasted food through thoughtful purchasing, preparation and storage) and increase climate friendly food choices (more vegetables and whole grains, less meat and dairy).



Take-away Options

Provided are example takeout containers and cups. Most all containers will need to go in the trash due to food contamination. Therefore, these products focus on using recycled content and thin material.

Product Type	Product		Cost/ Case	Cost/ Cup	Disposal
16 oz. Plastic Cups	Recycled PET (#1) (Recyclable)	Eco Products- BlueStripe Cold Cups (30% recycled content)	\$179.11	\$.18	Recycle only if clean, otherwise Trash
		Dart Solo Eco- Forward 16 oz. RPET Cold Cups (20% recycled content)	\$103.99	\$.10	Recycle only if clean, otherwise Trash
Takeout Containers	Natural Fiber and Recycled Paper	Bagcraft WHT-E883VF EcoBrite Eco-Flute 8" x 8" x 3" White Corrugated Clamshell Take-Out Box	\$25.99	\$.47	Trash (food soiled)
	Recycled Paper	Fold-Pak Eco-Friendly 32 oz. Oyster Pail	\$65.08	\$.144	Trash (food soiled)
	Recycled PET (#1)	Eco Product- Premium Take-out	\$94.86	\$.63	Trash (food grease)
16 oz. Hot Cups	Recycled Paper	Eco Products EP-BRHC16-EW Evolution World PCF 16 oz. Paper Hot Cup (23% recycled)	\$99.29	\$.09	Trash (inner liner)
16 oz. Paper Cold Cups	Thin Paper	16 oz. Dixie Poly Paper Cold Cups	\$108.98	\$.09	Trash (wax-coated)

For assistance transitioning to reusables in-house, for ways to reduce takeout waste, or interest in creating a purchasing collaborative please contact recycle@townoftruckee.com