



## Single-Use Foodware Reduction Ordinance FAQ's for Grocery Stores



### 1. How must grocery stores comply with the foodware reduction ordinance?

The foodware reduction ordinance only impacts food & drinks prepared and packaged to order at grocery stores, including, but not limited to items at deli counters, coffee shops, hot food bars, and salad bars.

- a. A \$0.25 charge must be applied for any disposable cup or container provided. Vendors can accept customer-provided reusable containers to allow customers to avoid the fee. See guidance from Nevada County Environmental Health Department on accepting customer reusables [here](#).
- b. Grocery stores with seating for customers to eat or drink food prepared in the store must provide reusable foodware for customers dining in. The following items are permitted to be disposable for in-house dining: disposable paper food wrappers, aluminum foil food wrappers, paper napkins, straws, paper tray or plate liners, non-plastic stirrers, cocktail sticks, and toothpicks, or pre-packaged food packaged outside the food facility. All other items must be reusable for in-house dining. See information on grants for reusables, dishwashers, and dishwashing guidance from Nevada County Environmental Health [here](#).
- c. Lastly, grocery stores must only provide disposable accessory foodware items upon the customer's request. This includes utensils, napkins, coffee stirrers,

### 2. How does the container fee work at a deli counter, hot food bar, or salad bar?

A \$0.25 fee must be applied for each disposable cup or takeout container provided with food or drinks that are made or packaged to order and provided in a disposable cup, bowl, plate, tray, carton, or box. Customers are encouraged to bring their own cup or food container to avoid the \$0.25 fee. The fee does not apply to disposable paper food wrappers, aluminum foil food wrappers, paper napkins, and paper tray or plate liners. The fee also does not apply to pizza boxes or bakery boxes (e.g., made to order cake boxes), since there is not a feasible reusable alternative available.

### 3. How does a customer use their own container at a self-serve food bar?

Grocers should allow customers to bring their own reusable takeout container to avoid the disposable container fee. This requires setting up new procedures for taring customer-provided containers where price is determined by weight and protocols for following Environmental Health & Safety requirements to avoid cross-contamination.

Learn more at [keeptruckeegreen.org/singleuse](http://keeptruckeegreen.org/singleuse)

