

Single-Use Plastic Bottle and Paper Carton Ordinance

Special Events Fact Sheet

Starting **April 22nd, 2025** (Earth Day) the sale and commercial distribution of unflavored, non-carbonated water in single-use plastic bottles and paper cartons under a gallon will be prohibited in the Town of Truckee.

Why was this ordinance adopted?

The Town of Truckee adopted this ordinance to address waste and litter in the community. According to the League to Save Lake Tahoe, single-use plastic bottles are among the top five types of litter found in the neighboring Tahoe Basin and are a large contributor to waste and litter in Truckee. These plastics do not decompose, but instead break apart into harmful microplastics that enter local waterways and can be accidentally consumed by wildlife or the public. As an alternative to water in single-use plastic bottles, high-quality tap water from a pristine mountain groundwater aquifer beneath Martis Valley is readily available to residents, businesses, and visitors in Truckee.

Who does this affect?

This ordinance affects businesses, other organizations, individuals, and special events within the Town of Truckee. For special events this means that:

- Both special event operators and participating vendors must comply with the ordinance
- Special event operators are responsible for ensuring that participating vendors comply
- Both special event operators and participating vendors may be subject to a citation if they do not comply
- Single-use plastic water bottles and paper cartons cannot be distributed to volunteers, event workers/attendees, or vendors, even at no cost

Are there exemptions?

Yes, exemptions include emergencies, patient care at healthcare facilities, and organizations providing social services who may distribute single-use water bottles to protect the health and safety of community members. If you believe your event may qualify for one of these exemptions, please contact Town staff at Sustainability@TownOfTruckee.gov.

Public agencies such as Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District, the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, Nevada County, or state agencies are not subject to the Town's ordinance when holding events on their own property.

To learn more about the ordinance and resources available, please visit

KeepTruckeeGreen.org/Bottles

