



Green To Go

Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

KEY REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE

The Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance requires food and beverages prepared for immediate consumption and to-go must be placed in environmentally acceptable packaging. Recyclable materials must be recycled. Compostable plastics must be composted.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

All people, businesses, events, or individuals who serve or give away food prepared for immediate consumption. This includes all restaurants; grocery store deli cases; food trucks and other mobile vendors; and temporary, short term and seasonal food vendors.

WHEN DO PACKAGING CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE?

The ordinance goes into effect on Earth Day, April 22, 2015.

WHAT IS PACKAGING?

Food or beverage cans, bottles, or containers used to package product for immediate consumption including glasses, cups, plates, serving trays, and to-go containers.

ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE PACKAGING is reusable, recyclable, or compostable.



For more information call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo



EXEMPTIONS

Exempt from the ordinance :

- Knives, forks and spoons
- Straws
- Stir sticks
- Foods prepackaged by the manufacturer, producer or distributor
- Plastic films less than 10 mils thick
- Catering companies licensed by the City of Minneapolis, another city or the state.
- Hospitals and Nursing Homes

The following products are exempt until April 22, 2017:

- PE lined paper products are allowed until April 22, 2017.
- Rigid polystyrene lids (marked with a #6 inside the three chasing arrows) for polyethylene (PE) lined hot and cold cups and containers for liquids (such as soup containers).

These exemptions will be reviewed annually as required by the ordinance.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Are businesses required to have compost collection in the front of the house? Only if the business uses compostable plastic containers. Compost collection is not required for businesses that only use compostable paper, reusable and/or recyclable products.


What materials are accepted as compostable? Products which are BPI certified or meet ASTM D6400 or D6868 standards. Contact your supplier with questions about products you are using.

Questions about the ordinance?

Call 311 or email food@minneapolismn.gov

NOT ALLOWED



- Rigid polystyrene - plastic marked 
- Expanded polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam™)

HENNEPIN COUNTY ASSISTANCE

Free:

- Bin set up, labels and signs
- Educational & promotional materials
- Cost savings estimates

Business Grants up to \$50,000 are available to assist with:

- Start or improve recycling and organics programs
- Bin and equipment purchases
- Installation
- Improvements to loading docks and waste container enclosures (fenced in areas)

www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo

Stay connected. Subscribe to *Food Establishment News* from the Health Department. Send an email to Food@minneapolismn.gov with "subscribe" in the subject line.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Minneapolis Health Department at 612-673-2301 or health@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.