



For more information
call 311 or visit
[www.minneapolismn.gov/
GreenToGo](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo)

Green To Go

Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

KEY REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE

The Green To Go 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. The ordinance went into effect on April 22, 2015 (Earth Day).

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.

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.

CONFUSING PACKAGING Beware of packaging that does not meet Green To Go requirements.

Health Inspectors are seeing products represented as meeting the ordinance, but do not meet it. Some of the products are beige and resemble compostable to-go containers. The symbol on the bottom of the products is a number six inside the chasing arrow triangle. That symbol means the product is polystyrene, which is not an acceptable packaging material under the ordinance.

Terms such as “green alternative,” “degradable,” “biodegradable,” and “sustainably sourced” are marketing terms. They do not indicate if a product meets Green to Go requirements.

PS

Plastics:

Required if using compostable
plastics: ASTM standard D6868 or



EXEMPT PRODUCTS

The following products are exempt until April 22, 2017:

- Polyethylene (PE) lined paper hot and cold cups and containers (soup, etc.)
- Rigid polystyrene (plastic) lids (marked with a #6 inside the three chasing arrows) for PE lined hot and cold cups and containers



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

NOT INCLUDED

Products not included in the ordinance:

- Knives, forks and spoons
- Straws
- Stir sticks
- Foods prepackaged by the manufacturer, producer or distributor
- Plastic films less than 10 mils thick

EXEMPT BUSINESSES

- Catering companies licensed by the City of Minneapolis, another city or the state.
- Hospitals and nursing homes

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Are businesses required to have organics collection in the front of the house? If a business uses compostable *plastic* containers organics collection is required. If a business only uses compostable *paper* organics collection is not required (but is encouraged).

What compostable plastics are accepted as organics? Products which are BPI certified or meet ASTM D6868 standards. Contact your supplier with questions about products.

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) 673-2626. Para asistencia (612) 673-2700. Rau kev pab (612) 673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay (612) 673-3500.