Compostable Food Serviceware Requirements

Beginning July 1, 2021, food service businesses in Burien must use and provide compostable food service products.

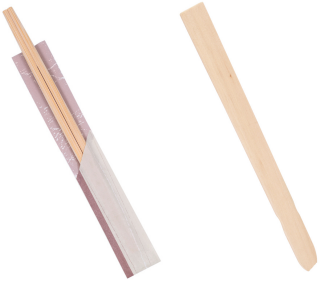
PLA Utensils

Fiber utensils

Paper cup lined with PLA

Fiber container

Paper bowl



Wood chopsticks and stir sticks

PLA cold cup

Plastic utensils

Styrofoam

Plastic container

The purpose of the ordinance is to promote public health, reduce litter, and limit harmful materials from entering the environment.

For more information:

environment@burienwa.gov · 206-248-5511

burienwa.gov/compostables

Burien

Compostable Serviceware Requirements Details

Food service businesses include:

- Restaurants
- Grocery stores
- Delis
- Coffee shops
- Food Trucks
- Booths
- Home delivery services
- Institutional cafeterias and similar

Products required to be compostable:

- Containers
- Plates
- Bowls
- Cups
- Trays
- Cartons
- Chopsticks
- Clamshells
- Knives, forks, spoons
- Meat trays
- Deli rounds
- Splash sticks
- Stirrers
- Portion cups
- Cocktail picks
- Lids
- Other hinged or lidded containers

Exemptions from the ordinance:

- Prepacked foods*
- Catering trays
- Produce bags
- Clear food wrap and shrink wrap
- Containers for uniquely-shaped foods such as deviled eggs or cupcakes
- Flexible plastic packaging used to preserve moisture and freshness
- Hot meat item containers such as those for ribs and rotisserie chicken
- Straws
- Items that receive a one-year waiver

**Prepackaged foods: food service products that have been filled with food and sealed by a separate food service business or food manufacturer prior to receipt by the point of sale food service business.*

What does compostable mean?

Compostable products are made of material that can be completely broken down, such as plant based plastics (PLA), plant fiber, wood, and paper.

Compostable products meet ASTM D6400 or D6868 standards.

How can I find compostable product vendors?

You can find vendors who sell compostable products on the City of Burien's website!

What if the product says "biodegradable" and not "compostable"?

A large number of products advertised as “eco-friendly” are not compostable and do not break down in the commercial compost system. Be sure the products you buy meet the definition of compostable.