

Restaurant Packaging Guide

Our Recycling Coordinator team at Republic Services has developed a packaging guide for restaurants to operate efficiently and sustainably. Sustainable packaging not only helps the planet, but it can also reduce your trash bill and save you money on monthly inventory bills.

Single-Use Item

Sustainable Alternative

Take-out

Dining In



Plastic bags



Paper bags



Plastic sauce cups



Paper sauce cups



Plastic cups



Paper cups



Polystyrene foam clamshells, plates and bowls



Paper clamshells, plates and bowls



Reusable trays



Reusable sauce dispensers



Drink dispenser and reusable cups



Reusable plates and utensils

Ordering To-Go

Instead of buying single-use plastics such as plastic bags, cups, plates and to-go clamshells, consider purchasing products made from paper, sugarcane fiber and bamboo.

Ordering In-House

When customers are dining in-house, consider providing machine-washable utensils and dishware. If customers request single-use items for their beverages or meal, refer to our single-use item alternative guide for sustainable options.

For information about our waste trainings, posters and educational videos, reach out to our **Recycling Coordinator team** at **510.262.7140** or **RecyclingCoordinators@RepublicServices.com** or visit **RichmondSanitaryService.com**.



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Sustainability in Action

Single-Use Item Alternative Guide

The following is a sample guide. Other sustainable packaging products and brands may be more appropriate for your business. Republic Services is not affiliated with any of the following brands.

Single-Use item	Sustainable Alternative	Purchasing Link
Plastic/Polystyrene drinking cups (12 oz.)	• Wax-lined paper drinking cups • Sugarcane fiber cups	• WebstaurantStore.com • TheUltimateGreenStore.com
Hot to-go drinking cups (12 oz.)	• Plastic-free dispersion paper cups	• GreenPaperProducts.com
Plastic to-go clamshells	• Unbleached plant fiber to-go clamshells • Sugarcane fiber to-go clamshells • Bamboo and paper fiber boxes	• GreenPaperProducts.com • GoodStartPackaging.com • Store.worldcentric.com/store
Plastic cutlery	• Wooden utensils • Fiber cutlery	• GoodStartPackaging.com • Store.worldcentric.com/store
Plastic bags	• Recycled paper bags	• GoodStartPackaging.com
Plastic sauce containers (2-4 oz)	• Fiber sauce containers	• (Container) Store.worldcentric.com/store • (Lid) GoodStartPackaging.com
Plastic/Polystyrene plates	• Sugarcane fiber plates • Compostable fiber blend plates	• EcoProducts.com • GoodStartPackaging.com
Plastic straws	• Paper straws • Sedge grass straws	• Store.worldcentric.com/store • GrassStraws.com
Plastic/Polystyrene bowls	• Sugarcane fiber bowls • Compostable fiber blend bowls	• EcoProducts.com • GoodStartPackaging.com
Plastic deli sandwich wrapping	• Wax paper sandwich wrapping	• EcoProducts.com