



County of San Mateo's Quick Guide Disposable Foodware Requirements

Updated: 7/19/22

Disposable Foodware Requirements

Key	County requirement (Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance)	✓
	California State requirement (AB 1200) starting on 1/1/23 (Note: This state requirement impacts ALL fiber-based foodware packaging, including items not listed in the table below.)	★

Items	Cannot be Polystyrene (All #6 plastic)	Must be Fiber-based Compostable (e.g., paper, sugarcane, etc.)	Can be lined with compostable plastic (e.g., PLA, etc.)	Must be approved by a 3 rd party*	Must be PFAS-free	Must be accepted in waste hauler's recycle or organics collection program
Accessories	Straws**	✓	✓		★	
	Stirrers**	✓	✓		★	
	Utensils**	✓	✓		★	
	Cocktail/toothpicks**	✓	✓		★	
Larger Items	Plates	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Bowls	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Cups (e.g., sauce and beverage cups)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Food trays/boats	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Boxes	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Hinged/lidded containers (e.g., clamshells, etc.)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Deli containers	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Other food containers	✓	✓	✓	✓	
For all items listed above with no fiber-based alternative	✓					✓
For all items not listed above with no fiber-based alternative	✓					✓

* Biodegradable Products Institution (BPI) certification, Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA) approval, or another third-party approved by the County required.

** If individually wrapped, packaging must also be fiber-based compostable (e.g., paper).

Distribution of Disposable Foodware Accessory Requirements ^[1]

Item	Must be distributed by request only	Can be distributed through one-at-a-time self-serve dispensers	Cannot be distributed in open bin/containers	Can be distributed through bulk, refillable condiment dispensers ^[3]	Each type of item must be requested by consumer on digital platform ^[4]	Must be unbundled	Can be offered to consumers
Foodware Accessories ^[2]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	At airports and drive-throughs only

[1] Aligns with California State law, AB 1276

[2] Examples include utensils (spoons, forks, knives, chopsticks), straws, stirrers, napkins, condiment packets, toothpicks, cocktail picks, cup sleeves, cup spill plugs, drink carriers, etc. Lids for containers and beverage cups are not considered an accessory, so they do not need to meet the requirements in the table above.

[3] Condiments can either be distributed as single-serving condiment packet by staff upon request and/or through a refillable bulk dispenser.

[4] Digital platforms include third-party food delivery services like DoorDash, Uber Eats, or Grubhub and food-facility operated websites.