

# Plastic Alternative Guide

## Food & Beverage Foodware Recommendations

The City of Irvine is actively educating the community on how businesses, residents, and City facilities can replace single-use plastics with reusable or non-plastic items.

By reducing single-use plastics, we can protect our environment and communities. Please consider using reusables whenever possible, and refer to our list of recommended non-plastic alternatives when needed.



### REDUCING YOUR BUSINESS COSTS

*Reusables reduce the frequency of purchases and disposal costs. This switch leads to long-term savings.*

#### Long-Term Savings

- Plastics and alternatives are often comparable in costs.

#### Waste Management Savings

- Using reusables reduces trash hauling fees due to less waste.

#### Cost-Cutting Strategies

- Use dispensers for straws and napkins to reduce unnecessary waste.
- Offer bulk condiments to further reduce costs.
- Train staff to give out disposable items only upon request.



### ATTRACTING NEW CUSTOMERS AND EARNING THEIR LOYALTY

*Numerous California cities and counties, covering over 18 million people, have implemented single-use plastic reduction efforts.*

#### Environmentally Conscious Businesses

- Create positive public perception and brand recognition.
- Attract new customers and reward them for sustainable behavior changes, securing loyalty.
- Increase revenue.
- Reduce waste and conserve resources.
- Increase sustainable consumption.



### ECOLOGICAL HEALTH & SUSTAINABILITY

*Reusables lessen the impact of fossil fuel extraction, manufacturing, and waste management.*

#### Reduction of Plastic Pollution

- Reusable and non-plastic items significantly reduce plastic waste in the environment. This change creates healthier ecosystems and cleaner water ways.

#### Lowering Carbon Footprint

- Single-use plastics contribute to greenhouse gas emissions throughout their lifecycle.
- By switching to reusables and non-plastic items, businesses can reduce their carbon footprint and help combat climate change.

Learn more: [cityofirvine.org/ep](https://cityofirvine.org/ep)  
[environmentalprograms@cityofirvine.org](mailto:environmentalprograms@cityofirvine.org)






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# Save money and the environment!

*Reusable foodware can reduce costs for your business.*

	Reusable	Lifetime	Disposable
	<b>1 ceramic plate</b> 9 in. \$1.39	<b>1000 uses</b>	<b>1,000 plates</b> Paper with plastic \$12.74 Paper \$21.97 Compostable \$77.90 Styrofoam \$36.86
	<b>1 metal fork</b> \$0.12 <b>1 metal knife</b> \$0.29 <b>1 metal spoon</b> \$0.10	<b>1000 uses</b>	<b>1,000 flatware</b> Plastic fork \$6.29 Plastic knife \$6.29 Plastic spoon \$6.29 Set of 3 \$32.98
	<b>1 ceramic mug</b> 12 oz. \$2.95	<b>500 uses</b>	<b>500 hot cups</b> Paper with plastic \$26.65 Compostable \$38.48
	<b>1 glass cup</b> 12 oz. \$1.54	<b>1000 uses</b>	<b>1,000 cold cups</b> Plastic \$47.70 Compostable \$96.94
	<b>1 plastic basket</b> red \$0.27	<b>100 uses</b>	<b>100 baskets</b> Clay-coated paper \$1.21

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# Foodware

**The links and prices in this guide were updated in October 2025, and are subject to change.**

*The prices listed in this guide reflect standard retail rates. Most suppliers offer significant discounts for bulk orders, wholesale purchases, or subscription plans, which can be found on their website.*

## Recommended Takeout Containers / Clamshells



Material	Brand/Link	Price
Bagasse	<a href="#">Karat Earth</a>	\$0.11 per container
Corrugated Cardboard	<a href="#">Sabert</a>	\$0.20 per container
Palm Leaves	<a href="#">Verterra</a>	Contact Company for Pricing
Sugarcane Fibers	<a href="#">Tellus</a>	\$0.21 per container
Bamboo, Plant Fibers	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.20 per container
Recycled Paper	<a href="#">Darling Foodservice</a>	\$0.26 per container
Bagasse & Bamboo	<a href="#">Earth's Natural Alternative</a>	\$0.43 per container
Bagasse	<a href="#">Pulp Safe</a>	\$0.33 per container

## Recommended Single-Use Utensils



Material	Brand/Link	Price
Unbleached Plant Fiber	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.07 per unit
Bamboo	<a href="#">Dixie Compostable Spoon</a>	\$0.12 per unit
Bamboo	<a href="#">Dixie Compostable Fork</a>	\$0.12 per unit
Bamboo	<a href="#">Dixie Compostable Knife</a>	\$0.12 per unit
Bamboo	<a href="#">Bambu</a>	\$0.28 per unit
Wood	<a href="#">Front of the House</a>	\$0.12 per unit
Wood	<a href="#">WoodAble</a>	\$0.06 per unit
Bamboo	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.32 per cutlery set including napkin
Birch Wood	<a href="#">Vegware</a>	\$0.06 per unit
Food Products (Edible)	<a href="#">Incredible Eats</a>	\$0.39 per unit
Wood	<a href="#">PackNWood</a>	\$0.09 per unit
Wood	<a href="#">Verterra</a>	\$0.44 per cutlery set including napkin



# Foodware

## Recommended Single-Use Plates



Material	Brand/Link	Price
Compostable Paper	<a href="#">Perk</a>	\$0.14 per plate
Compostable Paper	<a href="#">Perk</a>	\$0.17 per plate
Palm Leaves	<a href="#">VerTerra</a>	\$0.45 per plate
Bamboo and Plant Fiber	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.06 per plate
Sugarcane Fiber	<a href="#">Responsible Products</a>	\$0.09 per plate
Palm Leaf	<a href="#">PackNWood</a>	\$0.42 per plate
Paper	<a href="#">Bunzl</a>	\$0.05 per plate
Paper	<a href="#">AJM Packaging Corporation</a>	\$0.03 per plate

## Recommended Single-Use Bowls



Material	Brand/Link	Price
Bagasse	<a href="#">Tellus</a>	\$0.03 per bowl
Bagasse	<a href="#">Greener Earth</a>	\$0.16 per bowl
Bagasse	<a href="#">Perk</a>	\$0.15 per bowl
Bagasse	<a href="#">Karat Earth</a>	\$0.18 per bowl
Palm Leaves	<a href="#">PackNWood</a>	\$0.53 per bowl
Bamboo, Plant Fibers	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.10 per bowl
Plant Fibers	<a href="#">Responsible Products</a>	\$0.08 per bowl
Uncoated Paper	<a href="#">PackNWood</a>	\$0.22 per bowl



# Drinkware

## Recommended Sustainable Single-Use Straws



Material	Brand/Link	Price
Wheat Plant Stem	<a href="#">Hay Straws</a>	\$0.03 per straw
Wheat Plant Stem	<a href="#">Hay Straws (Jumbo XL Straws)</a>	\$0.10 per straw
Bamboo	<a href="#">Bambu</a>	\$0.26 per straw
Wheat	<a href="#">Holy City Straw Company</a>	\$0.09 per straw
Reed Plant Stems	<a href="#">Holy City Straw Company</a>	\$0.16 per straw
Paper	<a href="#">Napkins.com</a>	\$0.06 per straw
Paper	<a href="#">Napkins.com (Jumbo)</a>	\$0.06 per straw
Seaweed	<a href="#">Loliware</a>	Contact Company for Pricing
Pasta	<a href="#">Pasta Life</a>	\$0.04 per straw
Pasta	<a href="#">Pasta Life (Jumbo)</a>	\$0.08 per straw
Cornstarch	<a href="#">Corn Next</a>	\$0.03 per straw
Water Grass	<a href="#">Green Straws</a>	Contact Company for Pricing
Wheat Stems (Gluten-free)	<a href="#">Green Straws</a>	Contact Company for Pricing
Sugarcane	<a href="#">Green Straws</a>	Contact Company for Pricing
Rice Flour & Tapioca Starch	<a href="#">Green Straws</a>	Contact Company for Pricing

## Recommended Single-Use Cups



Material	Brand/Link	Price
Plant Fiber	<a href="#">Responsible Products</a>	\$0.14 per cup
Paper	<a href="#">Sofi</a>	\$0.15 per cup
Uncoated Paper	<a href="#">Bunzl</a>	\$0.03 per cup
Uncoated Paper	<a href="#">SOLO</a>	\$0.14 per cup
Plant Fiber	<a href="#">Responsible Products</a>	\$0.24 per cup
Bagasse	<a href="#">ECO SOUL</a>	\$0.40 per cup
Bagasse	<a href="#">Sincere EcoTech</a>	Contact Company for Pricing

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# Drinkware

## Recommended Stirrers, Lids, and Lid Plugs



Stirrer Material	Brand/Link	Price
Wheat Stem	<a href="#">Hay! Straws</a>	\$0.023 per stirrer
Bamboo	<a href="#">Cycle of Life</a>	\$0.0009 per stirrer
Bamboo	<a href="#">Cibo Wares</a>	\$0.008 per stirrer
Bamboo	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.01 per stirrer
Wood	<a href="#">amerCare Royal</a>	\$0.01 per stirrer
Wood	<a href="#">Choice</a>	\$0.01 per stirrer
Wood	<a href="#">Darling Foodservice</a>	\$0.01 per stirrer
Wood	<a href="#">Royal</a>	\$0.007 per stirrer



Lid Material	Brand/Link	Price
Bagasse	<a href="#">Karat Earth</a>	\$0.06 per lid
Unbleached plant fiber	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.08 per lid
Unbleached plant fiber	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.08 per lid
Bamboo	<a href="#">World Centric</a>	\$0.10 per lid
Sugarcane fiber	<a href="#">Eco-Products (sauce)</a>	\$0.06 per lid
Bagasse	<a href="#">Pulp Safe (soup)</a>	\$0.34 per lid
Bagasse	<a href="#">Karat Earth</a>	\$0.07 per lid



Lid Plug Material	Brand/Link	Price
Bagasse	<a href="#">Pak 360</a>	\$0.01 per lid plug
Wood	<a href="#">Food Packaging Online</a>	\$0.04 per lid plug
Poplar wood	<a href="#">Pick On Us</a>	\$0.06 per lid plug
Wood	<a href="#">Pick On Us</a>	\$0.07 per lid plug

## Recommended Water Bottles



Material	Brand/Link	Price
Aluminum	<a href="#">RAIN</a>	\$1.25 per bottle
Aluminum	<a href="#">Open Water</a>	\$1.79 per bottle
Aluminum	<a href="#">Open Water</a>	\$1.17 per can
Aluminum	<a href="#">CannedWater4Kids</a>	\$0.99 per can
Aluminum	<a href="#">CannedWater4Kids</a>	\$1.95 per bottle
Aluminum	<a href="#">Blue Can</a>	\$1.25 per can
Aluminum	<a href="#">Liquid Death</a>	\$1.05 per can

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The items featured in the Irvine Plastic Alternative Guide were selected based on strict health, safety, and environmental criteria to ensure they truly represent sustainable choices.

Products included contain **no plastic of any kind** (such as polyethylene, polypropylene, or PET), and deliberately exclude so-called “compostable” **bioplastics** like **PLA** or **PHA**, which often fail to break down properly.

To protect human and ecosystem health, they are free from **PFAS** (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), **bisphenols** (BPA, BPS, etc.), **polystyrene** (including Styrofoam), and **ortho-phthalates**, all of which are known for their toxicity, persistence, or hormone-disrupting effects.

Whenever possible, items also avoid **plastic packaging**, including **shrink wrap**, **plastic caps**, **labels**, and **trays**, in order to reduce hidden sources of waste.

Materials are chosen with an emphasis on **BPI certification** or other **third-party compostable verifications** to guarantee end-of-life responsibility.

In addition, all products are vetted to ensure they do not rely on **toxic glues, inks, or coatings**, nor do they use **plastic linings on aluminum products**, which often compromise recyclability.

Together, these criteria ensure the guide highlights alternatives that are **safe, genuinely compostable or recyclable**, and aligned with Irvine’s long-term sustainability goals.