

# 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](http://cityofirvine.org/ep)  
[environmentalprograms@cityofirvine.org](mailto:environmentalprograms@cityofirvine.org)

Funded By  
**CalRecycle**  
Funded by a grant from CalRecycle





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

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

Funded By  
**CalRecycle**   
Funded by a grant from CalRecycle



# 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

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

Funded By  
**CalRecycle**  
Funded by a grant from CalRecycle



# 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

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

Funded By  
**CalRecycle**   
Funded by a grant from CalRecycle



# 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

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

Funded By  
**CalRecycle**   
Funded by a grant from CalRecycle



# 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

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

Funded By  
**CalRecycle**   
 Funded by a grant from CalRecycle





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.