

LITTLE  
RIPPLES MAKE  
BIG CHANGE



# Food Service Ware

SINGLE-USE & PLASTIC WASTE PREVENTION REGULATION

[gov.bc.ca/reuse](https://gov.bc.ca/reuse)

**What is food service ware?** Disposable take-out containers and some packaging – including bowls, boxes, cartons, cups, plates, platters, trays, hinged containers, lidded containers, egg cartons and film wrap – used to hold food and drinks.

## What you need to know

As of July 15, 2024 businesses can no longer distribute or sell single-use (disposable) food service ware in B.C. made with certain hard-to-recycle plastics including polystyrene foam (e.g. Styrofoam™), or use them to package food or drinks.

PROHIBITED



## What you need to do

All businesses need to:

### 1. Stop selling food service ware made with Class B materials

Don't sell or distribute disposable food service ware made completely or partly from biodegradable plastic, oxo-degradable plastic, PVC, PVDC or polystyrene foam. Products made of compostable plastic are still permitted.

### 2. Stop selling food and drink that's packaged in Class B materials

Don't sell packaged foods – like instant noodles in a cup or eggs in a carton – in bowls, cartons, wraps or other packaging made completely or partly from biodegradable plastic, oxo-degradable plastic, PVC, PVDC or polystyrene foam. Products made of compostable plastic are still permitted.

Food service providers also need to:

### 3. Stop using take-out and delivery containers made with Class A prohibited materials

Don't pack to-go orders (or any other foods or drinks you prepare for immediate consumption) in disposable containers made completely or partly from compostable plastic, biodegradable plastic, oxo-degradable plastic, PVC, PVDC or polystyrene foam.

# What are Class A and Class B materials?

## PROHIBITED

	A	B
Compostable plastic	⊗	
Biodegradable plastic	⊗	⊗
Oxo-degradable plastic	⊗	⊗
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) after July 1, 2028	⊗	⊗
Polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC)	⊗	⊗
Polystyrene foam	⊗	⊗

These items are exempt under the regulation, and may continue to be used.

## EXEMPTIONS



Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) film wrap – **exempt until July 1, 2028**



Polystyrene foam trays for fresh or frozen raw meat, poultry, seafood or fish (but not sushi) – **exempt until July 1, 2030**



Paper and plant-fibre take-out and delivery containers, including those lined with compostable plastic or other allowable plastic



Food service ware meant for sale or distribution outside of B.C.



Food and drinks meant for sale or distribution outside of B.C.

## This fact sheet is part of a toolkit produced to help B.C. businesses comply with the regulation.

**Looking for options to single-use plastics?** Find our handy alternatives guide, plus fact sheets on other restricted items and additional printable tools – including posters and signs that you can use to inform your staff and customers – at [gov.bc.ca/reuse](https://gov.bc.ca/reuse).



*Through the Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation, B.C. is phasing out many hard-to-recycle single-use plastic items – reducing waste, protecting our environment, and creating a cleaner future for all British Columbians.*



Ministry of  
Environment and  
Climate Change Strategy