



REMINDER TO ALL FOOD FACILITIES & FOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS VISTA MUNICIPAL CODES 11.04 & 11.08 – POLYSTYRENE PLASTICS & SINGLE USE FOODWARE ACCESSORIES & CONDIMENTS REDUCTIONS

November 30, 2023

In 2021, The City of Vista approved two ordinances regarding polystyrene (Styrofoam) and single use foodware items and accessories. As of July of this year, both of these ordinances are officially in effect and enforceable. In an effort to support to our businesses, this notice serves as a reminder and educational resource on complying with state and local regulations.

WHAT ARE THESE REGULATIONS?

Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Reduction

- Prohibits Food Service Providers within the City of Vista from using/distributing polystyrene products with prepared food to their customers. It also prohibits use of polystyrene products with prepared food at City Facilities or any City-Sponsored Event.
 - Ex: Styrofoam cups, Styrofoam clamshells or Togo boxes, Styrofoam soup containers

Single-Use Foodware Accessories and Condiment Reduction

- Prohibits Food Service Providers within the State of California from giving their customers single use utensils or condiments unless requested by the customer. It also prohibits single use utensils or condiments to be bundled together and given to a customer.
 - Ex: plastic fork, knife, spoon & napkin in one packet, hot sauce or ketchup packets

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR MY BUSINESS?

Starting immediately, if you are a Food Service Provider (Restaurant, Café, Drive Thru, etc.) **that provides polystyrene products** to your customers, by law you must switch to a non-polystyrene product, ideally a more sustainable product like paper or a compostable option, but plastic is acceptable.

- Exceptions: Businesses that have annual gross receipts of less than \$1 million can apply for a 6-month waiver, with the option of one renewal waiver. For more information on this waiver, please contact the Climate Action Plan Program Administrator at: climateaction@cityofvista.com

Starting immediately, if you are a Food Service Provider (Restaurant, Café, Drive Thru, etc.) **that DOES NOT provide Styrofoam products** but does provide single use food accessories and condiments, by law you must not provide customers with the single use item unless they request it.

- Exceptions: Businesses can have unwrapped single-use foodware items or condiments available to a customer via self-service dispensers. In addition, businesses are allowed to ask the customer if they would like a single-use food accessory or condiment if operating a drive-through.








WHY DO I HAVE TO COMPLY?

These regulations help the City meet its waste reduction and recycling goal of 85% waste diversion by 2030 and align with the State of California’s diversion rate mandate. Polystyrene and Single Use Products are not easily recyclable and are some of the most significant contributors to local litter. This litter can harm wildlife, pollute our environment, and damage the City’s vision of a Cleaner Vista.

In addition, *all enforcement on these ordinances is currently complaint based*, so if your business is using polystyrene products or giving out single use food accessories and condiments regardless of customer request and you are reported to the City, you will be subject to further action and potential fees from the City.

While fines and penalties are possible, the City’s goal is to provide as much education and outreach to our businesses as possible to create a partnership toward a more sustainable Vista. Below is a chart on some polystyrene alternative material types ranked by environmental preference.

Product	Material	Environmental Preference	Example Image
Plates, Bowls, Cups, Utensils, Take-out Containers	Reusables (metal or hard plastic)	Preferred	
Utensils, Cups, Plates, Straws, Take-out Containers	Compostable or Paper (with no waxy lining)	Preferred	
Take-out Containers	Aluminum	Acceptable	
Cups, Take-out Containers	Hard Plastics	Acceptable	
Plates, Bowls, Cups, Utensils, Straws, Take-out Containers	Thin/Flimsy Plastics	Not Preferred	

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, please visit: <https://www.cityofvista.com/business/polystyrene-and-single-use-plastics>

Additional Questions?

Contact – Cassidy McCarthy, Climate Action Plan Program Administrator at climateaction@cityofvista.com or 760.643.5219