



For more information  
Call 311 or visit  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo)

## The Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### GREEN TO GO EXEMPTIONS END APRIL 22, 2019

Some products have been exempted from the Green To Go ordinance. The exemption allows businesses to use the products even though they do not meet the requirements of the Green To Go ordinance.

The exempted products are:

- Polyethylene (PE) lined paper hot and cold cups and containers for liquids (soup, etc.) , and
- Rigid polystyrene (plastic #6) lids for those containers. The lids are marked with a #6 inside three chasing arrows.

**Minneapolis Environmental Health has determined the product exemptions will end April 22, 2019.**

By ending the exemptions in 2019, businesses have time to use up existing inventory and work with distributors to purchase products that meet Green To Go requirements. This approach is consistent with the educational approach used when the Green To Go ordinance was amended in 2014.

### KEY REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE

*The Green To Go ordinance requires food and beverages prepared for immediate consumption and to-go must be placed in packaging that is reusable, recyclable or compostable. Recyclable materials must be recycled. Compostable plastics must be composted. The ordinance went into effect on April 22, 2015 (Earth Day).*

### WHO IS AFFECTED?

All people, businesses, events, or individuals who serve or give away food prepared for immediate consumption. This includes all restaurants; grocery store deli cases; food trucks and other mobile vendors; and temporary, short term and seasonal food vendors.

### WHAT IS PACKAGING?

Food or beverage cans, bottles, or containers used to package product for immediate consumption including glasses, cups, plates, serving trays, and to-go containers.

**ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE PACKAGING** is reusable, recyclable, or compostable.




**6**  
PS




Plastics: **1** **2** **5**  
PETE HDPE PP




Compostable plastics must meet ASTM standard D6868 or be certified compostable by Cedar Grove or BPI.



## CONFUSING PACKAGING

Beware of packaging that does not meet Green To Go requirements.

Some confusing containers are beige and resemble compostable containers.

If the symbol on the container is a number six inside three chasing arrows,

the container is polystyrene and does not meet Green To Go requirements.



Terms such as “green alternative,” “degradable,” “biodegradable,” and “sustainably sourced” are marketing terms. They do not mean a product meets Green To Go requirements.

## NOT INCLUDED

**Products not included in the ordinance:**

- Knives, forks and spoons
- Straws
- Stir sticks
- Foods prepackaged by the manufacturer, producer or distributor
- Plastic films less than 10 mils thick

## EXEMPT BUSINESSES

- Catering companies licensed by the City of Minneapolis, another city or the state.
- Hospitals and nursing homes

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

**Are businesses required to have organics collection in the front of the house?** If a business uses compostable *plastic* containers organics collection is required. If a business only uses compostable *paper* then organics collection is not required (but is encouraged).

**What compostable plastics meet Green To Go requirements?** Containers which meet ASTM standard D6868 or are certified compostable by BPI or Cedar Grove meet Green To Go requirements. Contact your supplier with questions about containers.

**Questions about the ordinance?** Call 311 or email [health@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:health@minneapolismn.gov). Ask for an Environmental Health Supervisor.



## NOT ALLOWED

- Rigid polystyrene - any color plastic marked
- Expanded polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam™)



## HENNEPIN COUNTY ASSISTANCE

**Free:**

- Assistance and training
- Labels, signs and other educational materials

**Business Grants up to \$50,000 are available to assist with:**

- Start or improve recycling, organics and waste prevention programs
- Bin and other eligible equipment purchases
- New recycling or organics hauling service fees
- Improvements to loading docks and waste container enclosures (fenced in areas)

For more information (and Hennepin County contact information) visit [www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling](http://www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 311 or visit [www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/GreenToGo)

Stay connected. Subscribe to *Food Establishment News* from the Health Department. Send an email to [Food@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Food@minneapolismn.gov) with “subscribe” in the subject line.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Minneapolis Health Department at (612) 673-2301 or [health@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:health@minneapolismn.gov). People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at (612) 673-3000. TTY users call (612) 673-2626. Para asistencia (612) 673-2700. Rau kev pab (612) 673-2800 - Hadio aad Caawimaad u baahantahay (612) 673-3500.