



QUICK FACTS

Reusables are the most sustainable option.

Studies clearly show that reusable products have the lowest environmental impacts.

Plastic containers and cups made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polypropylene (PP) are easily recycled in BC.

BC has created a system that allows these plastic containers to be recycled.

Most paper products are compostable.

With the exception of paper products coated with plastic. These cannot be composted.

Plastics labelled as “compostable” are a challenge for composting and recycling programs in BC.

Even when certified, many compostable plastics may not break down at regional composting facilities and are also not recyclable.

For a list of product suppliers and other business resources visit www.nanaimo.ca/recycling

Questions? Email: zerowaste@nanaimo.ca

SUSTAINABLE TAKEOUT GUIDE

Product and purchasing guidelines for Nanaimo's food service businesses

Disclaimer: This guide is not intended to inform food safety. Businesses must follow food safe procedures established by the local health authority

REUSABLE IS BEST

CUPS

Cold Beverages

Hot Beverages

- Provide reusable cups for on-site dining
- Choose durable reusable cups that can be used and washed many times
- Choose reusable cups that can be recycled at end of life



- Provide reusable containers for on-site dining
- Choose durable reusable containers that can be used and washed many times
- Choose reusable containers that can be recycled at end of life



CONTAINERS

Dry Foods

Wet or Hot Foods

UTENSILS

- Provide reusable utensils for on-site dining

GOOD

Recyclable plastic

- Choose products made from a single plastic material
- Ask your supplier for products that meet the Association for Plastic Recyclers guidelines



Paper

- Choose paper cups lined with recyclable plastic
- Choose recyclable plastic or paper lids
- Choose a paper sleeve made with high recycled content



Recyclable plastic or compostable fiber

- Choose products made from a single plastic material
- Ask your supplier for products that meet the Association for Plastic Recyclers guidelines



Recyclable plastic or aluminum

- Choose heat safe plastic
- Choose aluminum containers with a cardboard lid
- Ask your supplier for products that meet the Association for Plastic Recyclers guidelines



- Choose uncoated wood products over bamboo where possible
- Distribute only on request



AVOID

Compostable plastic

- Avoid cups and lids that look like plastic but are labeled as compostable or biodegradable

Foam

- Avoid foam cups



Compostable plastic

- Avoid containers that look like plastic but are labeled as compostable or biodegradable

Foam

- Avoid foam containers
- Avoid foam lids for use with aluminum containers



- Avoid plastic utensils
- Avoid utensils that look like plastic but are labeled as compostable or biodegradable