

Minneapolis has rules on containers used for serving food and drinks.

- All food businesses licensed in Minneapolis must follow Green to Go rules
- Caterers, hospitals, and nursing homes do not need to follow Green To Go rules

Green To Go rules apply to food and drinks meant to be eaten immediately or taken to go. Food and drinks must be put in containers that are either:

- Reusable
- Recyclable
- Compostable

Recyclable Plastics

Choose recyclable plastics with a #1, #2 or #5.



Compostable Plastics

Choose compostable plastics with the BPI certified logo.



Black plastic

Black plastic is trash.

- Avoid using black plastic containers
- Local recycling facilities are not able to recycle black plastic



Not allowed

- #6 plastics (polystyrene)
- Styrofoam™ (expanded polystyrene)



minneapolismn.gov/green-to-go

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact an Environmental Health supervisor at 612-673-2301 or 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 612-263-6850. Para asistencia, llame al 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

Collection bins

Food businesses must provide collection bins for each type of material used.

- Recyclable materials must be recycled
- Compostable plastics must be collected as organics and sent for composting



Exempt items

These items do not need to meet Green To Go rules:

- Utensils
- Straws
- Stir sticks



Utensil suggestion

- Ask customers if they need utensils, straws and stir sticks. Only give them out when needed.
- This can save money and reduce waste

Packaging food onsite

Individual servings of food and drinks must be in packaging that meets Green To Go rules.

This does not include:

- Foods prepackaged by a manufacturer, producer or distributor
- Plastic films less than 10 mils thick

Be aware

Some products promoted as green or good for the environment do not meet Green To Go rules.

Hennepin County

Hennepin County offers grants, signage, and technical assistance to businesses. Visit hennepin.us/business-recycling, email businessrecycling@hennepin.us or call 612-543-9298.

