



COVID SAFETY GUIDE FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY RESTAURANTS



From the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health and StopWaste

Reusable Foodware is Safe, Allowed, and Encouraged!

The Alameda County Department of Environmental Health, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, allows the use of reusable foodware when properly washed, rinsed, and sanitized. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a steep increase in the use of disposable foodware. StopWaste encourages the use of reusables whenever possible to reduce cost, waste, and litter, and improve diner experience.



✔ Provide Reusables for Onsite Dining

- For both indoor or outdoor dining, reusable dishes, cups, and utensils are safe for workers and customers as long as they're properly washed, rinsed, and sanitized.
- Items shared between customers such as menus, bread baskets, and condiment bottles must be disinfected between parties.



✔ Encourage Customer-Provided Reusables

- Reusable mugs, utensils, containers, and bags from customers are safe and allowed by health code.



✔ Reduce Waste from Take-out Service

- Self-serve stations are allowed as long as items are not bundled or wrapped and dispensers only dispense items one at a time. Consider providing bulk dispensers for condiments.
- Encourage customers to hand carry to-go orders without a bag or to use their own reusable bags. Remember that the [Reusable Bag Ordinance](#) for Alameda County is in effect.
- If disposable foodware is your only option, select fiber-based compostable items certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI).



★ Up to \$2,500 in Incentives for Reusable Foodware & Free Hands-on Support

Does your business currently use disposable foodware for on-site dining and/or take-out? You can receive up to \$2,500* worth of reusable foodware and related expenses, such as minor kitchen upgrades, take-out reusable foodware provider fees, and services for reusable foodware. Plus, you can get free hands-on technical support from StopWaste nonprofit partner, ReThink Disposable, to walk you through the process.

To learn more, visit www.StopWaste.org/reusables or scan this code →



*Actual incentive amount depends on size and complexity of project and availability of funds