



Single-Use Foodware Ordinance

Frequently Asked Questions

The Single-Use Foodware Ordinance, effective January 18, 2022, requires that food dispensing establishments, for any delivery or take-out order, provide single-use foodware only upon request from the customer or at a self-service station.

What does the Single-Use Foodware Ordinance Require?

The Single-Use Foodware Ordinance requires that, in connection with any delivery or take-out order of food or beverage, food dispensing establishments provide single-use foodware only upon request from the customer or at a self-service station.

What is a food dispensing establishment?

Food dispensing establishments are any fixed locations where food or drink is routinely prepared and served. Food dispensing establishments include, but are not limited to, restaurants, coffee shops, cafeterias, short order cafes, luncheonettes, grills, tearooms, sandwich shops, soda fountains, taverns, bars, cocktail lounges, nightclubs, industrial feeding establishments, take-out establishments, private institutions or organizations routinely serving food, catering kitchens, commissaries or any other eating or drinking establishment or operation.

What is single-use foodware?

Single-use foodware means any eating utensil or other item to be used as part of food or beverage service that is designed and intended by the manufacturer for only one usage before being discarded, including forks, spoons, sporks, knives, chopsticks, other eating utensils, stirrers, drink stoppers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, toothpicks, napkins, wet-wipes, cup sleeves, beverage trays, disposable plates, and condiment packets.

Are there are particular items that are not considered single-use foodware?

Single-use foodware does not include straws, beverage lids, or items used to contain or package food or beverages for delivery or take-out orders.

What is a self-service station?

A self-service station is an area dedicated to customers taking away single-use foodware and condiments.

Are there exceptions to which the Ordinance does not apply?

There are a limited number of exceptions to which the Ordinance does not apply. These are:

- 1) Single-use foodware necessary to address safety concerns, such as lids, drink stoppers, beverage trays, and cup sleeves for beverages served at an average temperature in excess of 170 degrees Fahrenheit;
- 2) An automatic food vending machine;
- 3) Any single-use foodware that is prepackaged with or attached to any food or beverage products by the manufacturer prior to receipt by the food dispensing establishment;
- 4) Any charitable food dispensing establishment;
- 5) Single-use foodware provided in connection with any food or beverage order fulfilled at a drive-through facility;
- 6) Any food dispensing establishment located at Chicago O'Hare International Airport or Chicago Midway International Airport.

Does this Ordinance apply to dine-in orders?

The Ordinance applies only to delivery or take-out orders of food or beverage.

What are food dispensing establishments required to do in regard to a customer's request for single-use foodware?

Food dispensing establishments are required to provide options for customers to affirmatively request single-use foodware when ordering for delivery or take-out. This requirement applies to all ordering or point of sale platforms, including internet enabled applications, digital platforms, phone orders, and in-person ordering.

How should the standard sign be used?

Businesses are encouraged to post the standard sign at any location where delivery or take-out orders may be placed.

Where can I find the standard sign for download?

The standard sign is available by visiting Chicago.gov/BACP, then clicking on Licensing.

Where can I find more information about this Ordinance and its requirements?

BACP maintains a Single-Use Foodware webpage with further information about the Ordinance, accessible by visiting Chicago.gov/BACP, then clicking on Licensing.