

UPON REQUEST

WESTCHESTER'S NEW GUIDELINES TO REDUCE SINGLE-USE WASTE

FACT SHEET

FOR BUSINESSES

What are single use foodware accessories?

Single-use items, including straws, utensils, chop sticks, condiment cups and packets, salt and pepper packets, cup sleeves, cup lids, and napkins, provided with ready-to-eat food and designed to be used once and then discarded.

What is the purpose of Upon Request?

To reduce unnecessary waste generated from single-use disposable items in the retail food industry and save businesses money; improve the health and safety of community members; and help keep our waterways clean and safe.

When does this legislation go into effect?

September 2, 2023

Who will have to comply with this legislation?

Any food service establishment operating in Westchester County and its consumers, including restaurants, fast food restaurants, cafés, delicatessens, coffee shops, supermarkets, grocery stores, vending trucks or carts, food trucks, cafeterias, and other entities selling or providing prepared or ready-to-eat food within the County for consumption on or off the premises.

What are the service requirements?

Dine-in/take-out orders: Single-use foodware accessories and condiments will only be provided to customers upon request or when self-selected at self-serve stations.

Online delivery orders: Food facilities that use a website or third-party delivery platform must customize their menu so customers can request foodware accessories and condiments with their order. Single-use plastic beverage stirrers or single-use plastic “splash sticks” are no longer permitted. Single use foodware accessories must be provided individually; bundled sets are no longer permitted. Establishments must post a sign informing customers of these changes.

What if my business fails to comply?

Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) and Department of Health (DOH) inspectors will be working to ensure compliance. Food facilities in violation of the law may be subject to a fine: 1st-time violations will receive a \$100 fine. 2nd-time violations will result in a \$200 fine. 3rd-time violations will result in a \$400 fine.

What about existing DOH and other requirements for safety and health?

All current DOH requirements for health and safety remain in effect. Utensils available in self-service containers for consumers must be either: in a single-use dispenser, placed handle up, or be individually wrapped for sanitary reasons.

For more information, contact the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000.



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