



SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS/STRAWNS/EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE ORDINANCES

#PlasticFreeCG

The City of Coral Gables is a leader in sustainability efforts. The goal of these ordinances (Chapter 62 - Article VII, and Chapter 2 - Article VIII) is to eliminate **single-use plastic bags/straws/stirrers and expanded polystyrene** (Styrofoam) and replace them with more environmentally friendly alternatives in order to reduce waste, litter, and pollutants from ending up in landfills on streets, parks, public spaces and in waterways.

Who Does These Ordinances Apply To?

- City Facilities: Includes buildings, parks, city golf courses, or any other city owned property.
- City Vendors, Contractors, Concessionaires, and/or Operators.
- Special Event Permittees and their subcontractors which includes any person/entity issued a special event permit by the City for a special event on City property, in a City facility or in the City's right-of-way.

Exceptions

- Special events of 100 people or less (such as a birthday party or family reunion).
- Not-for-profit corporations, school district, and county/state/federal governmental entities.
- ADA requests.
- Pre-packaged food items and/or items used to store meat, pork, seafood or poultry.
- Exempt Bags: Produce bags, Prescription Medicine bags, Dry Cleaning bags, Door Hanger bags, Newspaper bags, Garbage bags, Pet Waste bags, Yard Waste bags; and bags brought in by the customer.

Sustainable Alternatives

- Reusable (Designed for Long-Term Use: Cloth, Glass, Metal, etc.) Bags, Bottles, Cups, and Mugs
- Compostable Bags: Must meet ASTM D6400 Standards or equivalent
- Paper Bags and Cups: Made from at least 40% Post-Consumer Recycled Material
- Metal, Bamboo, Paper, and Sugar Cane Straws/Stirrers

Enforcement/Penalties

- Compliance with ordinances is a special event permit condition of approval.
- Enforcement begins immediately. If violation is found, permittee will be asked to cease use.
- Failure to do so will subject permittee to revocation of the Special Event Permit.
- For City contractors, a violation is deemed a default under the contract.

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CORAL GABLES ENCOURAGES BUSINESSES TO ELIMINATE SINGLE USE PLASTICS AND EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE

The City is strongly encouraging all local businesses to eliminate the use of single use plastics and expanded polystyrene (most commonly know as Styrofoam). Single use plastics and expanded polystyrene often are not readily recyclable. They take hundreds to thousands of years to degrade in the environment. According to studies, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. To help lead by example, the City has ceased purchasing single use plastic bags, straws and stirrers along with products made of expanded polystyrene.

Recommendations

- Conduct a supply chain audit.
- Work with suppliers on identifying sustainable alternatives.
- Reach out to other similar local businesses to learn how they switched.
- Market the switch to sustainable alternatives to your customers (website, social media, etc.).
- Do not automatically provide a single-use item to every customer. Make available upon request.
- Encourage use of reusable items: provide incentives for customers to bring their own.

Recognition Opportunities

Did you know that by going plastic free that it can help your business qualify as a Coral Gables Green Business?

The City of Coral Gables in collaboration with the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce have developed a Green Business Certification Program. The goal is to recognize/reward our businesses for all their amazing eco-friendly efforts. This FREE program also aims at educating local businesses on additional sustainability initiatives they can implement. The program focuses on the following areas:

- Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Energy and Water Conservation
- Pollution Prevention
- Transportation Alternatives
- General Environmental Policy and Education



Together - the City of Coral Gables and our local businesses can build a more resilient and sustainable Coral Gables.

For more information please visit coralgables.com/sustainability
or call 305-460-5008