Since June 2007, food vendors and restaurants in San Francisco have been required to use compostable or recyclable to-go containers. No Styrofoam™.

Who does this apply to?
Restaurants, delis, fast food establishments, vendors at fairs, food trucks, and all City facilities and contractors must comply with this law.

How is this enforced?
Anyone can report non-compliance via an on-line anonymous form at www.sfenvironment.org/foodservice, or by calling (415) 355-3700. Restaurants and food service establishments may be issued fines of up to $500 for refusal to comply.

What products are acceptable?

Compostable products include:
- Paper or other plant fiber, ie: from sugarcane. Polyethylene film coating on paper is accepted.
- Plant-based bio-plastics such as “PLA” must be labeled “Compostable”, meet compostability standards (ASTM D6400), and have a green band or green sticker to allow easy identification by the collector and the public.

Not acceptable:
- Products labeled “Biodegradable” are not compliant.

Recyclable products include:
- Aluminum foil or trays and plastic containers and lids.

Not acceptable:
- Plastic wrap, Styrofoam™, foam products are not compliant.

For a list of acceptable products:
Visit SFEnvironment.org/foodservice or call (415) 355-3700.
San Francisco Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance

Everyone in San Francisco is required to separate and put their recycling, composting, and trash in the right place.

Your City and recycling company offer a variety of free services and assistance to help you and your business compost and recycle properly. We work together to provide indoor containers, container labels, signs, commercial building toolkits, educational materials, multi-lingual trainings, consultations, and more.

- For help setting up your service and other assistance call Recology Sunset Scavenger (415) 330-1300 or Recology Golden Gate, (415) 626-4000.

Businesses
Property owners, business managers, food establishments and all San Francisco businesses:

- You are required to provide color-coded, labeled containers in convenient locations: blue for recycling, green for composting, and black for trash.
- You must also educate tenants, employees, contractors, and janitors on what goes in each container.
- Food vendors that provide disposable food service ware or to-go containers must have blue, green, and black containers for use by customers and visitors, placed inside near a main exit.

Enforcement
Effective October 21, 2009, everyone in San Francisco is required to subscribe to adequate trash, recycling and composting service. We strive to educate and assist. Fines may be given only in cases of blatant on-going non-compliance.

Recycling Theft
It is illegal for a third party to mix or take materials out of the recycling container provided by your collector. Please report recycling theft at RecologySF.com or by calling (415) 330-1300.