

USC Materials Standards for Events

This document lays out standards for to-go food and beverage materials at USC. All service-ware must either be REUSABLE, COMPOSTABLE or RECYCLABLE (as defined for USC below).

Definitions for USC Events:

- **Reusable:** Items made from durable materials that are washable and can be used multiple times (e.g., refillable bottles or cups).
- **Compostable:** Uncoated papers (cellulose fibers such as trees, bagasse, potato, banana leaf)
 - NO glossy, colored or waxed paper products.
 - NO compostable PLA- #7 plastics
 - Materials must be Certified Compostable. Acceptable product certifications include:
 - ASTM D-6400, BPI, Cedar Grove
- **Recyclable:** Clean and empty paper, metal, and glass materials. Single-use plastic beverage bottles are prohibited in compliance with [USC's Single-use Plastic Elimination–Beverage Bottles Policy](#).

Compliance Checklist:

Reusable/refillable food and beverage options should be used whenever possible.

For beverages:

_____ Beverage products and cups are either:

- Reusable/refillable containers
- Aluminum
- Glass
- Recyclable plastic cup with sip lid
- Uncoated paper fiber or certified compostable products
 - Excludes PLA #7 plastic products and carton beverage products

_____ Lids, drink stirrers and straws are:

- Uncoated paper fiber or wooden options
 - Excludes compostable PLA #7 plastic products

For Food:

_____ Service-ware is either:

- Reusable products (any material)
- Compostable- uncoated paper fiber or wooden options (ex. bagasse plates)
 - Excluding PLA #7 plastic products

_____ Cutlery is certified compostable

- Wooden or paper based

_____ Napkins

- Only brown napkins
 - Excludes white and black napkins

Items To Avoid:

- Styrofoam, Plastic to-go bags (including compostable plastic bags), “Recyclable” paper cups

Tips:

- Don't stock bundles of items
 - Ex. Packages that have spoon, fork, knife, salt/pepper & napkin – oftentimes people will only use 1 or 2 items and dispose of the rest
- Stock to-go items that are the same materials
 - Ex. Compostable fiber-based bowl with compostable fiber-based lid instead of fiber-based bowl with recyclable plastic lid
- Stock only plastics #1 (PETE), 2 (HDPE) & 5 (PP)
 - These are the only types of plastic accepted by our waste hauler for recycling
- No compostable or biodegradable plastic products