

Zero Waste Packaging Ordinance 2026 Acceptable Materials and Exemption List

Acceptable materials

Pursuant to subsection 12-205 of the ordinance, the public works department has developed the following list of packaging materials that meet the ordinance provisions for 2026.

Recyclable packaging – The following materials meet the definition for recyclable packaging under subsection 12-202 of the ordinance.

1. Plastic
 - a. Polyethylene Terephthalate (#1 PET or PETE)
 - b. High Density Polyethylene (#2 HDPE)
 - c. Polypropylene (#5 PP)
2. Metal
 - a. Aluminum (foil and containers)

Compostable packaging – The following materials meet the definition for compostable packaging in subsection 12-202 of the ordinance.

1. Third-party verified compostable products – must be BPI Certified Compostable.

Temporarily exempt materials

Pursuant to subsection 12-205 and 12-206 of the ordinance, the public works department developed and the city manager approved the following packaging materials that do not meet the definition for zero waste packaging in subsection 12-202. However, due to the limited alternatives currently available, these items are temporarily exempt from this ordinance and acceptable through December 31, 2026.

1. Paper food wraps and liners (e.g. fast-food wrappers)
2. Portion cups (smaller than 4 oz) and lids

Food establishments that choose to utilize temporarily exempt items must provide information to customers to clearly indicate these items cannot be recycled or composted and must be placed in the garbage. This must be done in print, for example on menus, posted signage or directly on the packaging.