

City of Coconut Creek Zero Waste Ordinance: Essential Points for Businesses

The City of Coconut Creek has enacted a Zero Waste Ordinance to reduce single-use plastics in the community. This affects businesses, especially those in food service. Here's what you need to know:

1. Ban on Single-Use Plastic Straws and Stirrers

- **Prohibition:** Food providers cannot sell, use, or offer single-use plastic straws or stirrers.
- **Exceptions:**
 - **Pre-Packaged Beverages:** Straws or stirrers included in drinks packaged outside the city and not altered within.
 - **Retail Sales:** Boxes of straws or stirrers sold for personal use, packaged outside the city.
 - **Medical Facilities:** Hospitals, medical or dental facilities, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.
 - **Individuals with Disabilities:** For those who require them to consume beverages or food supplements.
- **Allowed Alternatives:**
 - **Compostable Straws:** Bio-plastic straws certified as "home compostable" by TUV Austria or similar organizations.

2. Single-Use Plastic Food Accessories Upon Request Only

- **Policy:** Do not provide single-use plastic accessories (e.g., utensils, condiment packets) unless:
 - **Requested by the Customer.**
 - **Available at Self-Serve Stations.**
- **Automatic Provision:**
 - **Dine-In Situations:** When the food cannot be reasonably consumed without them (e.g., soup).
- **Signage Requirements:**
 - **Inside Premises:** Visible signs near pickup areas stating accessories are available upon request.
 - **Drive-Thrus:** Signs informing customers of this policy.

3. Ban on Expanded Polystyrene Containers on City Property

- **Prohibition:** Using expanded polystyrene containers (like Styrofoam) is banned on City property or rights-of-way during permitted activities or City events.
- **Exceptions:**
 - **Prepackaged Food:** Items filled and sealed before receipt by the provider.
 - **Raw Meat and Seafood:** Stored in such containers and sold from refrigerated displays.
 - **Declared Emergencies:** Exempt during these periods.

4. Ban on Intentional Outdoor Release of Plastic Confetti, Glitter, and Balloons

- **Prohibition:** Intentionally releasing plastic confetti, glitter, or balloons outdoors is banned.
- **Exemptions:**
 - **Government Use:** Releases by agencies for scientific or meteorological purposes.
 - **Recoverable Balloons:** Hot air balloons that are retrieved after use.
 - **Biodegradable Balloons:** Must be biodegradable or photodegradable, tied without attachments, and evidence of biodegradability must be available.

Next Steps for Businesses

- **Review and Adjust:** Assess your use of prohibited items and switch to compliant alternatives.
- **Train Staff:** Ensure employees understand and adhere to the new regulations.
- **Update Signage:** Place required signs to inform customers about accessory availability.
- **Explore Alternatives:** Consider compostable or reusable options for straws, stirrers, and accessories.

By following this ordinance, your business will help reduce plastic waste and promote environmental sustainability in Coconut Creek. Your cooperation is vital for the well-being of our community and environment.

For More Information

- **Contact:** City of Coconut Creek
- **Website:** [Coconut Creek Official Website](#)
- **Phone:** (954) 973-6780