



Reusable Container Guidance

In Oakland, food vendors are required to use customer-provided reusable containers (when requested by customers) for to-go orders, so long as the containers are clean, empty, and can safely hold orders.

California Retail Food Code¹ allows either the **EMPLOYEE** of the **FOOD FACILITY** or the **CUSTOMER** to fill **CUSTOMER**-owned containers if the following requirements are met:

- The **FOOD FACILITY** isolates the **CUSTOMER**-owned containers from the serving surface OR sanitizes the serving surface after each container filling



- The **FOOD FACILITY** prepares, maintains, and adheres to written procedures for staff to prevent cross-contamination. The **FOOD FACILITY** must make these written procedures available to **ENFORCEMENT** representatives (like County health inspectors) upon request or at the time of inspection
- The **FOOD FACILITY** ensures staff compliance with handwashing requirements. Staff must wash their hands before and after handling customer-provided containers.



Questions? Email the City's Recycling Hotline at recycling@oaklandca.gov

¹[California Retail Food Code Sec. 114121](#)