



Reusable Foodware Ordinance

Special Event Rules – Reusable Cups

In Oakland, event producers applying for a Special Event permit for events with over 500 guests per day must implement a Reusable Cup System.



TIMELINE PHASES

Starting July 1, 2025:

- Event producers must replace **25%** of unpackaged beverages with a Reusable Cup System

Starting January 1, 2027:

- Event producers must replace **100%** of unpackaged beverages with a Reusable Cup System



Unpackaged beverages are those that need to be poured into a container to serve – like wine from a bottle, beer from a keg, or coffee from a dispenser

Reusable Cup System

Reusable Cup Systems



- Use cups that are designed to be washed and sanitized in a commercial dishwasher at least 780 times
- Utilize a convenient customer drop-off system for collection, sanitation, and reuse
- Provide an incentive for customer return of reusable cup

Special Event Permit Application – Waste Reduction Plan (WRP)



- The WRP must describe how you will meet the Reusable Cup System requirements
- The WRP must describe the tracking system to be used to document the total number of beverages sold or provided, and the number of cups used as part of a Reusable Cup System



Special Event Rules – Reusable Cups

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are events that serve beverages *only* in cans and bottles subject to the reusable cup requirement?

- No. If you do not offer beverages in cups or similar containers, you are not required to use reusable cups.

What types of cups can we use?

- You may use stainless steel, plastic, glass, ceramic or any type of durable material that does not contain a High-Priority Toxic Chemical and is designed for sterilization and reuse at least 780 times (CCR 17989.3).

Do souvenir cups that guests take home satisfy the requirements?

- No. Cups must be collected as part of a Reusable Cup System.

How do I ensure reusable cups are safely used to serve beverages?

- Use of reusable cups must comply with CA Health & Safety Code, Sections 113700 et seq. and all other applicable state and local laws.

How do I document that 25% (100% starting Jan 1, 2027) of beverages are served using a Reusable Cup System?

- Contracts with beverage vendors must include compliance with this ordinance, including a way to document total sales or provision of poured beverages and those served in reusable cups.

How do I submit proof of 25% (100% starting Jan 1, 2027) of beverages are served using a Reusable Cup System?

- Documentation should be submitted to specialevents@oaklandca.gov within three months of your event.

What are the consequences of non-compliance?

- The City of Oakland can issue citations of up to \$500 per violation.

Rules are tied to the City of Oakland's Reusables Foodware Ordinance. Learn more about the law here: www.OaklandRecycles.com/reusables

