

YOUR GUIDE TO OCEAN FRIENDLY FOODWARE

TO HELP YOU AVOID GREENWASHING AND CHOOSE THE BEST “OCEAN-FRIENDLY” PRODUCTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

✓ Best Choice

DURABLE, NON-TOXIC REUSABLES

Metals, glass, ceramics

Switching from one single-use product to another isn't the way to solve the plastic pollution crisis. That's why reusables are always the best choice and why it is mandatory for Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Restaurants to use reusables for onsite dining. This means cups, plates, sauce containers, ramekins, utensils and more.

While the upfront cost of reusables is higher, consider the long-term cost savings. **Our Ocean Friendly Restaurants have saved between \$3,000-\$25,500 a year by switching to reusables for onsite dining.**

✗ What to Avoid

PETROLEUM-BASED PLASTICS

Typical fossil-fuel based plastic products and those that claim to be made from “recycled plastic”

CHEMICALLY-ALTERED BIOPLASTIC MATERIALS

Bioplastics, such as PLA and PHA with chemical additives

BLENDS

Bio-based materials blended with conventional petroleum plastic or bioplastic

↔ Good Alternative

MINIMALLY-ALTERED NATURALLY OCCURRING MATERIALS

Completely made of paper, bamboo, hay, seaweed, wood, palm leaf, without plastic or PLA lining, or PFAS

Brands may sell “good alternatives” as well as “what to avoid” products so be sure to vet each individual product you buy.

EDIBLE MATERIALS

Oat-based, gelatin-based, cornstarch-based, rice-based, and pasta products that can be safely eaten or home compostable

RECYCLABLE ALUMINUM CUPS

Aluminum cups aren't as durable as “best choice” cups, but can be easily recycled and reused compared to other disposable cups on the market

🔍 Assessed Case-By-Case

MATERIALS ONLY ALTERED THROUGH MICROBIAL FERMENTATION AND ARE HOME COMPOSTABLE

Pure PHB or PHA products that are home compostable and not created through chemical processes. Not all products in this category are made equal



MORE PRODUCT
RECOMMENDATIONS
IN OUR OCEAN
FRIENDLY FOODWARE
GUIDE 3.0

