



Business Waste Requirements



California is working to protect the environment by reducing methane emissions and keep more resources out of landfill with several new policies. Business compliance is an important key to achieving these goals and the City of Burbank is here to help navigate these new requirements.



City of Burbank Waste Reduction Ordinance¹

Burbank's Waste Reduction Ordinance reduces single-use plastics and landfill waste by requiring food service packaging be reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

Key Requirements:

- **Polystyrene Ban:** The sale or distribution of all polystyrene (#6 plastic) foodware—including expanded polystyrene (foam) and rigid polystyrene—is prohibited in Burbank.
- **Accessory-Upon-Request (AB 1276):** Single-use accessories—such as utensils, straws, stirrers, napkins, and condiment packets—may only be provided upon customer request or through a self-serve “choose-your-items” station. Automatic inclusion in takeout bags is not allowed.
- **Reusables for Dine-In (Effective January 1, 2026):** Restaurants offering dine-in seating, including fast-casual and quick-service restaurants, must serve all food and beverages using durable, reusable plates, cups, bowls, and utensils that can be washed and used again.
- **Recyclable/Compostable Take-Out (Effective January 1, 2026):** All single-use items provided for takeout or delivery must be recyclable or compostable.

¹Title 4, Chapter 2, Article 4 of the Burbank Municipal Code (“BMC”)

City of Burbank Compliant Product List:

This list provides helpful guidance on what products meet the Waste Reduction Ordinance requirements and promotes consistency across local food service operations.

burbankca.gov/documents/d/public-works/city-of-burbank-compliant-product-list

Business Support: Reusables Rebate Program

To help businesses comply with the January 1, 2026, requirement to serve dine-in customers with reusable foodware, the City of Burbank, in partnership with the Sustainable Burbank Commission, offers a Waste Reduction-Reusables Rebate Program.

Program Overview:

Eligible Businesses: Local businesses licensed in Burbank, in good standing, and compliant with SB 1383.

Eligible Purchases: Durable reusable plates, cups, trays, bowls, cutlery, etc.

Funding: Up to \$500 per business, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Purchase Period: Only purchases made between March 1, 2024, and the date of application qualify.

Program Limitations: This program may change or terminate without notice once funds are expended. Applications are now being accepted and then reviews will begin March 2, 2026.



For more information on the Waste Reduction Ordinance or to apply for the reusables rebate:

burbankca.gov/web/public-works/waste-reduction-ordinance

Now Required: Public-Facing Recycling & Organics Bin

To help reduce landfill waste and contamination, California law (SB 1383 and AB 827) requires many businesses—especially those that serve food on-site—to provide clearly labeled recycling and organics bins wherever customers have access to trash.



Separate Containers & Labeling

Providing properly labeled recycling and organics bins not only meets state law—it also improves service efficiency and supports Burbank's waste reduction goals.

Recycling Bins: All customer and employee accessible trash (black/grey) containers must be paired with recycling (blue) containers. **Restrooms are excluded from this requirement.*

Organics Bins: A green organics bin must be provided and paired with the trash and recycling containers in any area where food is prepared, served, or eaten including breakrooms. If staff bus all food scraps to a back-of-house organics bin, a public-facing organics bin is not required.

Color & Labeling: All bins must follow statewide color standards—black or grey for trash, blue for recycling, and green for organics—and must also include clear, visible labels showing what materials go in each container.

Best Practices to Reduce Contamination

- Post simple, photo-based signage showing what belongs in each bin.
- Keep bins grouped together to make sorting intuitive.
- Use consistent colors and labels throughout the business.
- Train staff to monitor stations and remove visible contamination.
- Keep containers clean, accessible, and well-maintained.



Burbank Permitted Waste Haulers

Consult with a waste hauler to help get your business in compliance. They can help *right size* your collection program to align service levels with disposal needs. They also can provide recycling and organics educational sorting information for employees and customers.

Find a hauler at:
<https://www.burbankca.gov/documents/d/public-works/ab1826-permitted-hauler-list>



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For more information on disposal regulations and tips for commercial businesses:

WEBSITE: [burbankca.gov/web/public-works/business-recycling](https://www.burbankca.gov/web/public-works/business-recycling)

CONTACT: zerowaste@burbankca.gov