

**Food Service Containers and Wrappers**  
**Guidance on Substitutions for Polystyrene and Molded Fiber Products**  
 July 30, 2018

The following guidance has been developed (listed in order of priority) to assist purchasers and contractors in identifying alternatives to polystyrene and molded fiber products in order to meet the New York State Executive Order 4 (EO4) specification for Food Service Containers and Wrappers located at <https://ogs.ny.gov/greenmy/green-product-specs.asp>.

1. Re-usable food service containers. Examples of re-usable food service containers include but are not limited to china, ceramic or plastic bowls, plates and cups, etc.
2. Compostable single-use food service containers that are composted and do not contain fluorinated chemicals or polystyrene. All products must be either certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) or be listed on the Cedar Grove Composting Facility’s list of accepted products. The following table lists examples of the types of materials that typically meet these requirements:

<b>Type of Container</b>	<b>Material (Note: must be either BPI certified or accepted by Cedar Grove)</b>
Cold Cups	100% PLA, PLA coated paper or uncoated plain or corrugated paper
Hot Cups	100% PLA or PLA coated paper
Lids	PLA, CPLA
Bowls, Plates, Clamshells	100% PLA, PLA coated paper, clay coated paper, uncoated plain or corrugated paper, bamboo, palm leaf
Cutlery	PLA, CPLA

**Notes:**

1. PLA stands for Polylactic Acid
  2. CPLA stands for Crystallized Polylactic Acid
  3. BPI certified products can be found at <http://products.bpiworld.org/>
  4. The Cedar Grove list of accepted products can be found at <https://cedar-grove.com/compostable/accepted-items>
3. Recyclable single-use food service containers that are recycled. Examples of acceptable recyclable containers include:
    - a. Products made from #1 (PET) plastic
    - b. Products made from #5 (Polypropylene) plastic
    - c. Uncoated plain or corrugated paper products
    - d. Paper products coated with wax
    - e. The following table lists examples of products that are typically made with these materials:

<b>Type of Container</b>	<b>Material (Must be marked with recycling code)</b>
Cold Cups	#1 plastic, #5 plastic, uncoated plain or corrugated products, paper products coated with wax
Hot Cups	#5 plastic, uncoated plain or corrugated products, paper products coated with wax
Lids	#1 plastic, #5 plastic
Bowls, Plates, Clamshells	#1 plastic, #5 plastic, uncoated plain or corrugated products, paper products coated with wax
Cutlery	#1 plastic, #5 plastic