

Take the Waste out of Takeout

Takeout Containers: Best to Worst for the Circular Economy

FOR BUSINESSES

- Reduces overhead
- Potential health and safety restrictions

- Increasingly cost effective
- Readily available from distributors
- Suitable for wide array of foods

- Better than the worst options
- Doesn't demonstrate a commitment to the environment

- Reveals low commitment to environment and makes business a major source of waste

BEST

Best options: Reusable plastic or glass containers, stainless steel, reusable mugs, cutlery, and straws



SECOND

Second best options: Paper (unlined), short-use wood cutlery, bamboo products



THIRD

Third best options: Plastic (polystyrene) containers, plastic cutlery, aluminum



WORST

Worst options: Styrofoam (extruded polystyrene), plastic-lined paper containers, bio-plastics (PLA)



FOR CONSUMERS

- Reduces waste
- Allows for environmentally friendly consumption
- Mostly recyclable at end of life

- Natural and renewable resources
- Recyclable or compostable
- Low energy and GHGs

- Plastic can be recycled a few times
- Plastic and aluminum are energy intensive to make

- nearly all styrofoam ends up in landfill
- Plastic-lined paper & bio-plastics cannot be recycled or composted in BC*; all goes to landfill

* Some non-BC jurisdictions are able to compost bio-plastics. If BC gains this capacity, PLA would move up to 2nd or 3rd best option. Also, there is uncertainty about how PLA decomposes in landfills. It might biodegrade, but there is a lack of data on it.