



New rules for takeaway food and drinks: What food service businesses need to know.

There is a new packaging law (VerpackG2) to protect the environment and the climate: Less disposable plastic packaging is to be used for takeaway food and beverages, for example for coffee cups (to-go) or for food boxes (takeaway food).

In addition to disposable plastic packaging or packaging with a plastic content, suppliers of take-away food and beverages must offer packaging that can be reused (Section 33, 34 VerpackG2). **There are different rules for small businesses***. The new rules apply as of **1 January 2023**.



Rules for large businesses

Offering reusable packaging for take-away food and drinks

If a business offers disposable plastic packaging, then it must also offer reusable packaging as an alternative.

- **Option 1:** The establishment can buy its own reusable packaging, for example made of plastic or glass.
- **Option 2:** The establishment can cooperate with a company that offers reusable packaging (pooled reusable system).

Equal opportunities for reusable and disposable

- Food and beverages in reusable packaging must not be more expensive.
- No discounts or other benefits may be given for food and beverages in disposable packaging.
- A deposit may be charged on reusable packaging.

Information for customers

- Establishments must display clearly visible and legible information on reusable packaging, for example on signs or posters.

Return of reusable packaging and hygiene

- Establishments must take back reusable packaging that they give out.
- There are rules (hygiene regulations) for taking back, cleaning and dispensing the cups or trays. The rules must be observed.
- Establishments must collect dirty packaging separately. Dirty packaging must not be placed near foodstuffs.



Rules for small businesses*

Filling customers' containers

- Establishments must fill food and beverages into cups or bowls brought by the customer if requested by the customer.

Information for customers

- Establishments must indicate on clearly visible and legible information boards that they fill food or beverages into containers customers bring with them.

Hygiene and responsibilities

- Establishments bear no responsibility for ensuring that the containers brought in are suitable for transporting foodstuffs.
- When filling containers, the applicable hygiene regulations and food safety requirements must be observed.

Additional information:

- "Hygiene & Reusable Tableware": www.lebensmittelverband.de
- "Eating with Reusable" campaign': www.esseninmehrweg.de

*Small business: sales area up to 80 square metres (including freely accessible seating and lounge areas) and a maximum of five employees

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