



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

**The business must always offer a reusable alternative for disposable cups, even if they do not contain plastic.

Note: This information sheet is a summary of the legal basis, contains preliminary suggestions and does not claim to be complete. Although the information sheet has been prepared with the greatest possible care, no liability can be accepted for the correctness of its content.

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