

Single-use Plastic Bylaw Fact Sheet

Bylaw to be presented in Town Meeting May 2024:

Phase I Ban to be enacted on January 1, 2025

- Polystyrene/Styrofoam containers
- Plastic Straws - unless they are specifically requested by patrons.
- Plastic Stirrers
- Splash guards for take out cup lids

Enact Voluntary Skip the Stuff program:

Prevents restaurants from automatically including accessories like plastic utensils, napkins, condiment packets, etc. Customers must explicitly ask for them.

Phase II Ban to be enacted on January 1, 2026:

- Water Bottles

Enforcement - Needham Board of Health (similar to enforcement of plastic bag ban)

Needham Bill	Alternative	Other Towns/Cities
Polystyrene/Styrofoam	Aluminum, cardboard, compostable options, recyclable containers, etc.	60 towns and cities have banned polystyrene/styrofoam.
Plastic Straws	Bamboo, Pasta, Metal, etc, but still available in plastic if the patron requests it	Andover, Brookline, Chelmsford, Gloucester, Harwich, Lexington, Melrose, Provincetown, Rockport, Swampscott
Plastic Stirrers	Wooden stirrers	Hadley, Harwich, Melrose, Nantucket, Natick, Newton, Somerville, Swampscott, etc. Many towns include splash guards in their ban of disposable food serveware that is not recyclable or compostable.
Plastic Splash guards	Wooden coffee lid plugs/ or patron brings their own mug with lid that seals tight	Hadley, Newton, Northampton, etc. Many towns include splash guards in their ban of disposable food serveware that is not recyclable or compostable.
Ban on plastic water bottles (1 liter or less, except as may be required for safety, health, or emergency situations.)	Water in aluminum cans or glass bottles	27 towns and cities; including many towns on the Cape, Hingham, Arlington, Concord, Lincoln, Sudbury, etc. In addition, Governor Healy banned water bottles from state agencies.