

# Needham Single-Use Plastic Bans Guidance








Needham Public  
Health Division  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



GREEN  
NEEDHAM



*Given the harm of single-use plastics to the environment and human health, Needham has passed bans on various plastic items as of January 1, 2024. Below, please find a list of banned items and some suggested replacement items that will ensure your establishment is in compliance with the bans.*

| Banned Item  | Replacement   |
|--|---|
| <p>Single-use, thin or thick plastic checkout bags</p>  | <p>Paper bags, reusable shopping bags</p>    |
| <p>Plastic stir sticks</p>                              | <p>Reusable spoon or wooden stir stick</p>   |

**Plastic splash guard/ stick**



**Lid with built-in guard**



**Polystyrene (Styrofoam)**



**Paper cups, cardboard, aluminum, compostable takeout containers, white or clear plastic**



**Black plastic  
(effective January 1st, 2026)**



**Cardboard, aluminum, compostable takeout containers, and white or clear plastic**



**For more information:**

Please see Green Needham's web page on single-use plastics, including the plastic bag ban, black plastics ban, and Skip the Stuff:

<https://www.greenneedham.org/blog/plastic-waste-reduction/>

For specific questions about the by-laws, call Needham's Public Health Division:

(781) 455-7940