

City of Newton



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Linda Walsh, Commissioner

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459-1544

Telephone 617.796.1420 Fax 617.552.7063
TDD/TTY 617.796.1089



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dear food establishment owner,

The City of Newton is actively trying to reduce the use of single-use containers as they are known to negatively impact human health and our natural environment over time. This document is being provided to you as guidance if you decide to allow consumer use of reusable containers for food in your food establishment.

According to 3-304.17 in the 2013 FDA Food Code, the following rules apply to consumer use of reusable containers for food in a food establishment:

1. The container must be one that was initially provided by the food establishment to the consumer for the purpose of being returned for reuse.
2. The container must be designed for reuse. This means that the container must be safe, durable, corrosion-resistant, nonabsorbent, able to withstand repeated washing, have a smooth and easily cleanable surface, be resistant to and free of damage, and meet the other requirements of sections 4-1 and 4-2 in the 2013 FDA Food Code.
3. The following steps must occur before the container is filled/refilled with food:
 - a. The container must be cleaned and sanitized in a manner consistent with sections 4-6 and 4-7 of the 2013 FDA Food Code.
 - b. A food employee must visually inspect the container to ensure that it meets all of the above requirements.

Sincerely,

Linda Walsh
Commissioner of Health & Human Services