



## **Vendor Guidelines for Waste Reduction and Recycling at the Jekyll Island Shrimp & Grits Festival**

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### **Prohibited Materials**

- Styrofoam
- Plastic shopping bags
  - Why? - Styrofoam and plastic shopping bags are not recyclable. Because Styrofoam breaks apart easily and plastic shopping bags are so light, they both tend to escape the waste-management process and end up polluting the environment.

### **Discouraged Materials**

- “Virgin” plastic (plastic with no recycled content) service-ware
- Plastic straws
- Compostable plastic and plant-based plastic products
- Glass bottles
  - Why? - Plastic pollution can be dangerous to wildlife. Plastic is environmentally costly to produce, and never completely breaks down in the environment. Compostable plastic, sometimes made from plant-derived compounds, is good for venues that have an industrial composting system at their disposal. However, such a system is not currently available to Jekyll Island. Compostable plastics are typically not recyclable and release more greenhouse gases when they decompose in a landfill than traditional plastic. Glass is challenging to deal with in the waste-stream because it is breakable and heavy. Broken glass could cause a safety concern at the festival.

### **Preferred Materials**

- Paper-based service-ware, made from recycled paper if available
- Paper shopping bags, made from recycled paper if available
- Plant-based non-plastic service-ware (palm fronds / corn husks / bamboo / wood; wheat, sugarcane, hemp or other plant fibers). May be advertised as compostable.
- Aluminum cans
- Recycled-content plastic service-ware when necessary
  - Why? - Paper, wood, and other minimally processed plant products are typically sourced through sustainable silviculture/agriculture. Aluminum cans are highly recyclable. Recycled-content plastic supports the stability

of the recycling industry by creating demand for recycled plastic and is the best alternative when a non-plastic substitute is not available/practical.

### **Examples of preferred materials:**

Plates

<https://becompostable.com/element-collection/>  
<https://smartpackusa.com/p-171-4-square-palm-leaf-plate.aspx>

Forks and Spoons

[https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/recycled\\_content\\_cutlery.html](https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/recycled_content_cutlery.html)  
<https://www.webstaurantstore.com/bambu-062100-3-1-2-disposable-bamboo-spork-case/175062100.html>

Portion Cups

<https://greenpaperproducts.com/compostable-fiber-portion-condiment-cups-je20n.aspx>

Drink Cups (5K) - \$671.05

[https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/bluestripe\\_cold\\_cups.html](https://www.ecoproductsstore.com/bluestripe_cold_cups.html)

Straws

<http://webstaurantstore.com/ecochoice-5-1-2-black-unwrapped-paper-compostable-sip-straw-case/485PSIP5BK.html>

Napkins

<https://www.napkins.com/wholesale-earth-wise-kraft-beverage-napkins-1000-ct.html>

### **Other important waste-reduction considerations:**

Right-Sizing

Avoid plates, bowls, or cups that are bigger than needed for the portion you are serving.

Opt-In

Don't automatically serve drinks with straws or pour beer into cups before offering in the can. Either give your customer the choice or make waste-free the standard and reserve straws and cups for "upon request" orders.

**Please help us make our events eco-friendlier**