

Skip the Stuff

It is the Law – Public law P.L.2025, c. 298 - simply known as Skip the Stuff

In effect - August 1, 2026 - there is a grace period for training

Requires – Food service businesses to provide single-use utensils, condiments and napkins **ONLY IF THE CUSTOMER REQUESTS THEM**

Business is allowed to ask the customer if they want these items if the customer has not requested them – but should not automatically include them without the customer's request

On-line ordering Apps, etc. may allow the customer to request these items, but the default on the app should always be “No utensils or condiments”- **THIS MAY REQUIRE A CHANGE TO BUSINESS ON LINE ORDERING APPS**

The law does not require a business to start providing these items (upon request) if they have not done so in the past

New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law — Effective 8/1/2026

NEED STUFF?

Single-use items will only be provided upon request for take-out orders.



JUST ASK!

Please only ask for the number of items you need!



THANK YOU!

For complying with New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can your customers receive single-use condiments and utensils under New Jersey's Skip the Stuff Law?

For Take-Out Orders:

- Single-use items provided upon request.
- In person: Business may ask the customer if utensils are needed, or the customer can ask for them.
 - You can also offer utensil dispensers (one item at a time)
- Online: orders must ask the customer if they want single-use utensils and condiments
 - The default assumption *must be "no"* unless requested.

For Dine-In:

- Full-service restaurants (10 + seats with wait staff):
 - Business must provide reusable utensils
- Casual dining restaurants
 - Single-use utensils and condiments may be provided upon request

What are single-use utensils and condiments?

- Items designed to be discarded after one use
- Utensils: Forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks
- Condiments: Sauces, seasonings, sweeteners, spices



Skip the stuff

Provide cutlery and condiments only upon request

- 40 billion single-use plastic utensils discarded annually

- businesses should put on their website that cutlery and condiments are available upon request

- businesses should let staff and the public know you are part of the global effort to eliminate single-use plastic waste

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The law does not prohibit the distribution of eco-friendly alternative utensil and condiments

The law does not prohibit the use of single use portion cups when serving sauces, dressings or similar accompaniments

Self Serve condiment stations may be utilized when they dispense individual single use utensils –

NO cutlery or condiment bundles may be provided beginning Aug 2027

The law applies to Food Service businesses – restaurants, cafes, food trucks, vendor stations and some parts of food stores, sports arenas, and schools – whether take-out, dine-in, drive-thru or delivery

The law also requires full service restaurants with seating for 10 or more customers (with wait staff) to provide washable, reuseable utensils for on-site dining



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Exceptions to the law

Food courts are exempt until Aug 1, 2028

Public schools (k-12), correctional facilities and health care facilities

Any prepackaged food with utensils attached during manufacture

Single-use sauce cups for dine-in and take out to avoid cross contamination or spillage

Penalties

Warning first followed by a \$100 fine

Third and subsequent fines will be \$250 during a period of 12 months



Benefits

BUSINESSES SAVE MONEY BY NOT BUYING/DISTRIBUTING ITEMS THAT MANY TIMES ARE **NOT** USED AND END UP IN LANDFILLS

Customers keep clutter off of counters and out of utensil drawers

Reduces landfill waste and saves money on hauling costs and works, even if a little bit, to make us more GREEN

