



## CASE STUDY

# KOREAN PALACE

Location: San Jose, California

Service Type: Dine-in and takeout services  
with indoor/outdoor seating

Warewashing: Auto-Chlor

Korean Palace is a family-friendly restaurant and banquet hall in San Jose, California. They enjoy hosting events and welcome community to enjoy their delicious Korean cuisine. Their best sellers are the authentic Hot Pot BiBimBap and their delicious seafood pancakes. The restaurant utilizes an Auto-Chlor dishwasher and has been able to seamlessly incorporate their new reusable foodware with their system.

## AT A GLANCE

- 29% reduction in single-use disposable foodware
- 10,235 pieces (240.1 pounds) of single-use foodware eliminated from the waste stream annually
- Saving \$444 annually

With the help of our ReThink Disposable Zero Waste Specialists, Korean Palace is eliminating 240 pounds (the weight of a competition winning pumpkin!) from the waste stream, and the business is saving \$444 annually that can be reinvested into other upgrades to the space. We can see that they were able to cut their dine-in disposable usage by 29%, now only utilizing single-use for take-out.

## CHANGES TO SERVICEWARE

Branded Disposable Chopsticks	➡	Stainless Steel Chopsticks
2 oz Plastic Sauce Cup	➡	2 oz Stainless Steel Sauce Cup
4 oz Plastic Sauce Cup	➡	4 oz Stainless Steel Sauce Cup



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

“We’re thrilled to switch to Rethink Disposable’s reusable chopsticks, rests, and sauce cups. The heavy weight and elegant styling feel just like what we use at home. Our only worry? They’re so nice, someone might want to take them! Still, we’re excited to make this change and help reduce the number of trees being cut down.”

– Daniel Woo, Owner of Korean Palace



## KOREAN PALACE RESULTS

Korean Palace was already using as much reusable foodware as they thought possible for their dine-in and banquet customers. As part of a community case study, we like to add one restaurant that makes small changes in their reuse plan, like Korean Palace, that only needed to convert disposable chopsticks and sauce cups. We can see even with small changes there is a large impact. Korean Palace is now diverting over 10,000 pieces of single-use disposable foodware from the waste stream annually!

Disposable Product Replaced or Minimized	Recommendation Implemented	PACKAGING IMPACTS			COST IMPACTS	
		Percent Disposable Reduction**	Annual Quantity of Disposable Product Reduced	Annual Waste Reduction (lbs.)	Payback Period (months)	Annual NET Cost Savings After Payback Period (\$)*
Branded Disposable Chopsticks	Stainless Steel Chopsticks	20%	8,000	168.00	7.2	\$389.68
2 oz Plastic Sauce Cups	2 oz Stainless Steel Sauce Cups	20%	1,304	65.18	3.2	\$18.27
4 oz Plastic Sauce Cups	4 oz Stainless Steel Sauce Cups	14%	931	6.96	2.9	\$36.34
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>29%</b>	<b>10,235</b>	<b>240.14</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>\$444.29</b>

\*Net Cost Impact considers any upfront and ongoing costs associated with the purchase and care of reusable items and capital improvements needed to carry out ReThink Disposable's recommendations. Net cost savings are based on avoided disposable foodware purchases.

\*\*The restaurant continues to use disposable foodware for takeout orders.

ReThink Disposable is a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund conducted in partnership with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies. Generous support is provided by a changing list of public and private funders. To learn more about the program, its partners, and funders, visit: [www.rethinkdisposable.org](http://www.rethinkdisposable.org)

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