



New Jersey “Skip the Stuff” Law

(S.3195 & A.5157)

Signed into law by Governor Murphy on January 20, 2026

Key Provisions of New Jersey’s Skip the Stuff Law:

- Businesses can only provide single-use cutlery and condiments when requested and shall only provide the types and amounts expressly requested.
- Self-serve condiment stations may be displayed in which only an individual single-use utensil is provided. No cutlery bundles may be provided beginning February 2027. An open tray or other similar system may be provided in sports arenas and entertainment centers.
- Applies to all take-out businesses, as well as dine-in full-service restaurants with seating capacity of 10 or more.
- Applies to food service businesses regardless of whether the customer’s meal order is placed in person, over the phone, online, or using other available means or methods. The default selection for online ordering must be “no utensils or condiments”.
- Public or nonpublic preschools through 12th grade schools, county or State correctional facilities, and health care facilities are exempt.
- Food Courts have a 2-year exemption.
- Any pre-packaged food item with condiment or single-use utensil attached during manufacturing is exempt.
- Single-use sauce cups for dine-in are exempt.
- This bill pre-empts any municipal policies pertaining to distribution of single-use cutlery and condiments (over 60 municipal policies helped lead to this legislation).
- A 180-day education campaign will be developed to educate people on the financial and environmental benefits of reducing single-use utensils and condiments.
- Penalties of non-compliance are as follows: a warning followed by \$100 fine with 3rd and subsequent fines of \$250 during a period of 12 months. Monies collected from penalties shall be deposited into Clean Communities Program Fund. Municipalities or entities certified pursuant to County Environmental Health Act may retain 30 percent of the penalty funds.
- This bill was signed by Governor Murphy on January 20, 2026, and shall take effect on August 1, 2026, the first day of the seventh month next following the date of enactment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Marta Young

Clean Water Action Zero Waste Specialist

myoung@cleanwater.org

www.cleanwater.org