



New Jersey “Skip the Stuff” Law

What Food Service Businesses Need to Know

Effective August 1, 2026

Requires food service establishments to provide single-use utensils and condiment packets only upon customer request. The law also requires full-service restaurants with seating for 10 or more patrons to provide reusable utensils for dine-in customers. An approximately six-month education campaign will accompany implementation to inform consumers about the financial and environmental benefits of reducing disposable items. Exemptions: School cafeterias, healthcare facilities, and correctional facilities.

What Your Business CAN Do

- ✓ Ask customers if they would like single-use utensils (fork, knife, spoon, chopsticks).
- ✓ Ask customers if they would like condiment packets (ketchup, mustard, soy sauce, etc.).
- ✓ Provide self-service dispensers so customers can take only what they need.

What Your Business CANNOT Do

- ✗ Provide single-use utensils unless requested.
- ✗ Provide bundled utensil kits (e.g., fork/knife/spoon/napkin/salt/pepper combinations).
- ✗ Provide condiment packets unless requested. Only the number requested may be given. *Example: If a customer requests two sauce packets, provide two, not three.*
- ✗ Provide disposable cutlery for dine-in customers if your establishment has 10 or more seats.

Why Compliance Benefits Your Business

Cost Savings

- Avoid purchasing items that are frequently discarded unused.
- National studies estimate businesses could collectively save over \$200 million annually by providing cutlery only upon request.
- Additional savings come from reducing unused condiment distribution.

Customer Satisfaction

- Customers appreciate reducing unnecessary waste and clutter.
- Supports environmentally conscious consumer expectations.

Operational Efficiency

- Fewer reorders of disposable supplies.
- Less inventory storage and waste management.

Environmental & Community Impact

- Reduces litter and plastic waste in local communities.
- Helps prevent clogged storm drains and flooding.
- Reduces long-term environmental and health impacts associated with plastics.

And Most Importantly — It’s the Law.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Marta Young
Clean Water Action Zero Waste Specialist
myoung@cleanwater.org
www.cleanwater.org