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Choose Reuse to Protect Your Health!

Single-use takeout containers like paperboard boxes and plastic clamshells can contain chemicals such as **phthalates**, **bisphenols**, and **fluorinated chemicals** (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Chemical additives are often added to food packaging to impart specific performance qualities.



Emerging science suggests exposure to chemicals can occur during the entire lifespan of plastic products, including alarming implications for consumer contact.

(Source: the Endocrine Society and the International Pollutants Elimination Network)

These chemicals have been linked to serious health risks including fertility issues, early puberty, low birth weight, obesity, diabetes, immune system impacts, cardiovascular and respiratory problems, certain cancers, and neurological and behavioral issues (EWG).

(Source: Environmental Working Group)

Be Green & Keep Your Tiffin Clean!

- Wash your Tiffin in the dishwasher or hand wash thoroughly with hot, soapy water before its first use, immediately after use, and in between every use.
- Rinse well to remove any soap residue.
- Avoid using abrasive cleaners or harsh chemicals that could damage the metal.

Tiffin Reuse Best Practices:

According to the NYS Department of Health, in certain instances customers may use their own containers as long as they do not come in contact with food-contact surfaces and are dispensed in a sanitary manner.

Customers may transfer leftover food from their meal into a personal reusable container at their table to take home.

Contact between a customer's personal container and in-house dinnerware does not pose a health risk since the in-house dinnerware is to be washed and sanitized.

Source: **CSMM** CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

There are two main codes that regulate the use of reusable food and drink containers at restaurants in NYS. Pertinent sections of these include:

- **NYS Sanitary Code**, Subpart 14-1: Food Service Establishments
- **US Food Code**, 3-304.16: Using Clean Tableware for Second Portions and Refills
- **US Food Code**, 3-304.17: Refilling Returnables

Remember, it's your responsibility to fill your Tiffin with leftovers.

Keep your reusables alongside your other essentials to remember to bring them with you!



Phone



Wallet



Keys



Tiffin

Know the Facts!

Reusable tiffins can significantly reduce waste and litter, save resources, reduce costs for businesses, all while promoting sustainability!

Nearly **1 trillion** individual pieces of disposable foodware packaging are used by food service businesses in the U.S. each year. This is an estimated **9 million tons of waste** – or the equivalent weight of 25 Empire State Buildings!

(Source: Upstream)

Single use items represent a high and ongoing cost – U.S. businesses spend **\$24 billion** on disposables each year.

(Source: Upstream)

Most single-use take out containers are **not recyclable** and end up in landfills, contributing to methane and other greenhouse gas emissions.



Each year in Ulster County, more than 100,000 tons of waste requires disposal at a distant landfill, 250 miles away. The long-haul trucking of waste is responsible for **4%** of Ulster County's greenhouse gas emissions inventory. statewide, the waste sector accounts for 12% of New York's greenhouse gas emissions.

(Source: Ulster County Department of the Environment and NYS DEC)

Eight of the top ten items found during beach clean ups are related to single use disposable food and drink packaging.

67% of litter found on commercial streets is single-use food and beverage packaging.

(Source: Clean Water Action Study)

Litter cleanup costs **\$11.5 billion** in the U.S. each year. (Source: Keep America Beautiful)

The presence of litter can lower property values within a community by as much as **7%**.

(Source: Keep America Beautiful)



Tiffin Trailblazer Pledge

"I pledge to be a **Tiffin Trailblazer** by using my tiffin for dine-in leftovers, and always with cleanliness and best practices in mind.

By doing so, I commit to reducing single-use disposables, conserving resources, being a sustainability champion, and teaching others about reuse solutions with kindness.

I am committed to using my tiffin as a symbol of my dedication to remember how easy it is to rethink waste."

Using a Tiffin Makes a World of Difference

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New York State
Pollution Prevention Institute