



# City of Bern's Reusable Tableware Policy

The city is enriched by its special events. The Open Air Festival, Mardi Gras or the Union Market: these public events are wonderful. They attract people into the city and onto the streets, inviting them to join in and have fun. But even when in the mood to party, it is still important to look after our public spaces, keeping them clean and green to enhance the image of both the event and the city. There are various things we can do to keep littering, pollution and rubbish to a minimum. One of these measures is the compulsory use of returnable and reusable tableware.

## The basic principle

All events held in public spaces which require a licence must use returnable and reusable tableware. It is the event organisers' responsibility to ensure compliance with this rule.

## What is returnable and reusable tableware?

Reusable tableware is multiple-use and made of plastic, glass or china. It is issued upon payment of a deposit.

## How high should the deposit be?

The deposit should be high enough to influence customer behaviour and encourage them to return the tableware: 2 Francs per piece is the recommended deposit.

## How are drinks served?

By the glass in reusable tumblers. If required, glasses and china cups can also be used.

## How is food served?

On reusable tableware or without a container, simply in a small serviette. The latter is a low-cost way of serving food, as it saves on the handling of tableware and deposits. French fries, crêpes, kebabs, etc. can be sold in paper bags or wax paper (butcher's paper). Anything made of eco-friendly materials which can be balled up in one hand is permitted. Aluminium foil is not allowed. Mustard, ketchup, sauces, etc. should be distributed directly onto food from a dispenser. Small wooden implements for eating and stirring, as well as small forks, are permitted (maximum of 14cm in length). Ice creams are to be served in waffle cups or edible cones.

## Is single-use packaging allowed?

Generally they are not: single-use packaging such as PET, glass and aluminium requires a special permit with justification for its use; must always be subject to a deposit (using a chip) and must be recycled.

Special permits for glass and aluminium are only given for speciality drinks. In certain cases, single-use miniature containers may be permitted for tasting purposes. If you want to use single-use containers, please contact Entsorgung + Recycling Stadt Bern ERB.



### What should I do if I can't use returnable and reusable tableware?

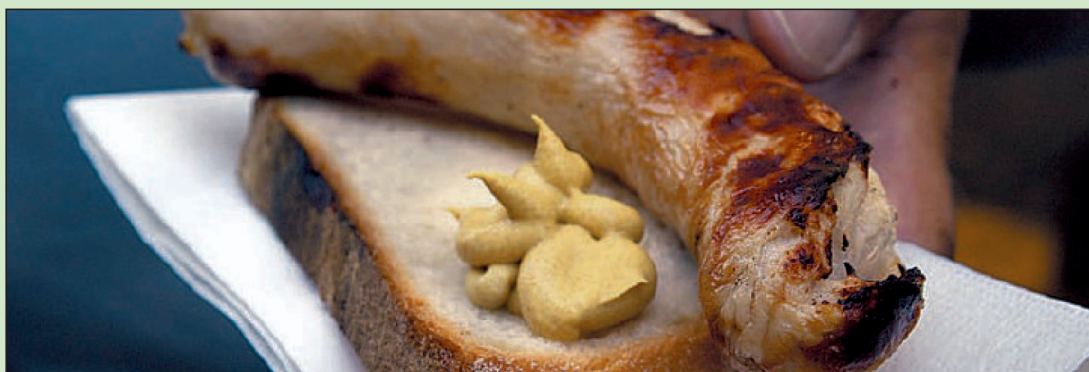
In certain cases, it is unreasonable and excessive to insist on the use of returnable and reusable tableware (e.g., drinks stations for marathon runners). In this case, a request for exemption must be submitted in writing at least eight weeks before the event. The event organisers must prove that their case is an exception and that other measures are being taken to avoid or minimise waste, such as the use where possible of eco-friendly packaging (e.g., recycled cardboard) and special rubbish-collection teams.

### Event permit and waste disposal form

Events held in public spaces require a permit. A waste disposal form is required if food and drink is to be served at the event. A template for this is available at [www.bern.ch/mehrwegberatung](http://www.bern.ch/mehrwegberatung) or can be obtained from the «Polizeiinspektorat» (police department).

The waste disposal form demonstrates how to comply with the requirements relating to returnable and reusable tableware and how to organise cleanliness. It also provides details regarding tableware, food and drink, sorting and disposal of waste, cleaning and other planned measures to avoid and minimise waste. The waste disposal plan must be submitted to the «Gewerbepolizei» (trade inspectorate) no later than four weeks before the event takes place.

Some examples of food served without containers or tableware:



### Contact

For further information and documents:

Entsorgung + Recycling Stadt Bern  
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Murtenstrasse 96  
Postfach 5033, 3001 Bern  
Telephone +41(0) 31 321 79 73  
[entsorgung@bern.ch](mailto:entsorgung@bern.ch)  
[www.bern.ch/mehrwegberatung](http://www.bern.ch/mehrwegberatung)

Polizeiinspektorat Stadt Bern  
Veranstaltungsmanagement  
Predigergasse 5  
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Telephone +41 (0) 31 321 52 20  
[veranstaltungsmanagement@bern.ch](mailto:veranstaltungsmanagement@bern.ch)  
[www.bern.ch/polizeiinspektorat](http://www.bern.ch/polizeiinspektorat)

