



Bisphenol – A (BPA)

Frequently Asked Questions For Businesses

The Multnomah County Board of Health has banned the sale of certain products made with BPA to reduce community exposure. The law bans the sale of all reusable beverage containers that are made with BPA, these include sports bottles, baby bottles, sippy cups and reusable water bottles. It is your responsibility to ensure all banned products containing BPA are removed from your shelves and your inventory.

- **What is BPA?** Bisphenol-A (BPA) is a chemical used in the making of hard plastics called polycarbonates. Polycarbonate is used in everyday products like reusable water bottles, baby bottles and some food storage containers. BPA can be released, or leach into beverages and food stored in these containers.
- **What products are banned?** Multnomah County is banning the sale of certain products that contain BPA. The proposal bans all reusable beverage containers that are made with BPA. This includes sports bottles, baby bottles, sippy cups and insulated water bottles. Because people reuse these items, there may be increased exposure to BPA. The ban will not include one-time use containers or commercial grade containers.
- **What products are not banned?** The ban will not include one-time use containers, commercial grade containers (water cooler jugs), or the coating found in many canned foods. The ban will not include uses of polycarbonate that do not come in contact with food or drink (toys, storage boxes, etc.)
- **How do I know if a plastic container is made with BPA?** To find out if a container has BPA in it, look for a code on the bottom. Plastics are usually marked with a number inside a triangle on the bottom of a container, which is called the recycling code. If you see a #7 and/or the letters "PC", the container may be made with BPA. Plastics with the numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 are not made with BPA. Manufacturers are not required to label a container "BPA-Free". If you are unsure whether a container is made from BPA or polycarbonate, you should contact the manufacturer.
- **When does the ban go into effect?** The ban went into effect on October 27th, 2011. However, because establishing rules and enforcement protocols is a process, implementation and enforcement of the ban is expected around July 2012. Voluntary compliance is encouraged and appreciated.



- **How do I comply with the ban? Are there fines for selling products containing BPA?** Pay close attention to the products on your shelves made of hard plastic. Use the information above to determine if the product contains BPA. If you are unsure if a container is made from BPA or polycarbonate, try to contact the manufacturer. Fines may be issued if other methods of enforcement are unsuccessful.
- **I already sell BPA-free containers.** Consider signing our BPA-free pledge at www.multco.us/bpa/ to be recognized.
- **Why is Multnomah County restricting products made with BPA?** Many studies have shown that low-level exposure to BPA has been linked to health complications such as developmental disorders, thyroid dysfunction, cancer, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, reproductive problems and liver complications. Children's smaller body size and immature metabolism may also put them at greater risk.
- **Who do I contact if I have more questions?**
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