

Dinnerware

Choose to reuse! There is no question that disposable plates, cups, and utensils are convenient. But they also have significant negative impacts on the environment, animal, and human health.

Quick Facts

- Each year Americans throw away **25 billion foam cups**.
- Americans throw away enough disposable cups and utensils every year to circle the earth **300 times**.
- Most disposable food service ware, utensils included, **cannot be recycled** in RIT or Monroe county's recycling stream.
- Plastic, polystyrene (Styrofoam™) included, **is not biodegradable**. In the environment it breaks down into small pieces that can be ingested by animals, clogging their digestive system.
- Polystyrene foam and other plastics ingested by marine animals may bioaccumulate up the food chain, potentially up to humans.
- Polystyrene foam factory workers have been known to develop mutations to the nervous system.



What You Can Do

- **Choose reusables** whenever available.
- Say NO to polystyrene foam.
- Keep reusable ware stocked in your office or breakroom.
- When eating at the dining halls, opt to eat in and use their reusable ware, or get a reusable OZZI box to carry out.
- ALWAYS have a **reusable water bottle and/or travel mug** on you and consider carrying a **reusable utensil set**.
- If you need to buy disposable ware for large events, **buy recyclable/compostable ware**.

