






SINGLE-USE CUPS

Providing **single-use cups** next to tap water dispensers, water bottle fillers, and point-of-use water machines provides students with an easy way to serve themselves water, and may increase water consumption among students. Read below for more information on what to consider when purchasing cups including more detailed information about specific products (e.g., brand, size, cost).

Material/Types: Single-use cups are made of five types of materials that vary in cost and durability. Some are recyclable or compostable in certain areas.

	Polystyrene (PS)	Polypropylene (PP)	Poly-lactic Acid (PLA)	Poly-ethylene-terephthalate (PET/PETE)	Paper
Example					
Material #	#6	#5	#7	#1	NA
Relative Cost	Less expensive	More expensive	More expensive	More expensive	Less expensive
Relative Durability	Less durable (cracks easily)	More durable	Less durable (melts easily)	More durable	More durable if inside of cup is lined with wax or plastic; less durable if unlined
Recyclable ¹	No	Yes	No	Yes	Depends on lining
Compostable ¹	No	No	Yes	No	Depends on lining

(1) Indicates whether the material is recyclable or compostable *in general*. Your community may not recycle/compost all the materials listed here as recyclable/compostable.


Size of Cup: 7 ounces to 12 ounces is appropriate for school-aged children and adolescents. Smaller cups are less expensive, but students may have to refill them multiple times to get desired amount of water.

Popular Brands include Karat (PS, PP, PETE), Conex (PS, PP, PETE), Dixie (PS, PP, PETE), Solo (PS, PP, PETE), Green Stripe (PLA/compostable), Eco-Products (PLA/compostable)

Examples of Companies Selling Cups Online (not an exhaustive list):







- www.cupdepot.com
- www.ecoproductsstore.com
- www.parishsupply.com
- www.greensafestore.com
- www.webstaurantstore.com
- www.dartcontainer.com
- www.amazon.com
- www.instawares.com

Options for Single-Use Cups¹

Name and Picture	Size (Ounces)	Approximate Price	Material
Dixie CC5 Plastic 	7oz	~\$0.06 per cup (~\$60 for pack of 1000 cups)	PS (#6)
Karat Clear Plastic PET 	7oz - 12oz	~0.05 to \$0.08 per cup, depending on size and quantity ordered (~\$50 to \$80 for pack of 1000 cups)	PET(E) (#1)
Karat Clear Frosted Polystyrene 	7oz - 9oz	~\$0.03 to \$0.04 per cup, depending on size ordered (~\$40 for pack of 1000 or ~\$95 for pack of 2500)	PS (#6)
Greensafe Store PLA Clear 	7oz - 12oz	~\$0.05 to \$0.09 per cup, depending on size ordered (~\$100 for pack of 2000 7oz cups to ~\$92 for pack of 1000 12oz cups)	PLA (#7)
Eco-Products Green Stripe for Cold Drinks 	7oz - 12oz	~\$0.06 to \$0.16 per cup, depending on size and quantity ordered	PLA (#7)
Choice Paper for Hot Drinks 	8oz	~\$0.03 to \$0.04 per cup, depending on quantity ordered (~\$30-33 for pack of 1000)	Paper lined with polyethylene
Dixie Pathways Paper Hot Cups 	8oz - 12oz	~0.06 to \$0.09 per cup, depending on size and quantity ordered (\$66 to \$85 per pack of 1000)	Paper lined with polyethylene
Green Choice Compostable Paper Coffee Cups 	8oz - 12oz	~\$0.06 to \$0.08 per cup, depending on size ordered (\$63 to \$75 per pack of 1000)	Paper lined with PLA

(1) Not an exhaustive list. Organized by size of cup.

Options for Single-Use Cups¹

Name and Picture	Size (Ounces)	Approximate Price	Material
Eco-Products World Art Hot Paper Cup 	8oz - 12oz	~\$0.10 per cup, depending on size ordered (~\$100 per pack of 1000)	Paper lined with PLA
Karat Eco-Friendly PLA 	9oz	~\$0.09 to \$0.10 per cup (~\$95 for pack of 1000 cups)	PLA (#7)
Karat White Paper Cold Cups 	9oz - 12oz	~\$0.06 to \$0.08 per cup, depending on size ordered (~\$58 to \$78 for pack of 1000)	Paper lined with polyethylene
Dixie WiseSize PETE 	10oz	~\$0.11 per cup (~\$58 for pack of 500)	PET(E) (#1)
World Centric Compostable Corn Clear Cold 	10oz	~\$0.09 to \$0.10 per cup	PLA (#7)
Karat PolyPropylene Clear Cold 	12oz	~\$0.06 to \$0.07 per cup, depending on quantity ordered	PP (#5)

(1) Not an exhaustive list. Organized by size of cup.