



Zero Waste Zone

Lunch Court & Cafeteria Zone

Zero Waste Program
@ Elementary Schools

SPORK PACKET REPLACEMENT: Facts & Reasons

SDUSD's Food & Nutrition Services Department and Recycling Office have teamed up to provide alternatives to the plastic wrapped spork packets provided for meal service at elementary schools. Schools are provided with individual sporks and napkins for students to choose at breakfast*, lunch, and supper. Straws will not generally be available. While no plastic utensils can be recycled in the mixed material recycling program at schools, this project aims to reduce the amount of litter on campus, keep plastic waste from making it to our oceans or ending up in the landfill, and to save money! *Breakfast in the Classroom schools may still use spork packets for breakfast service

WHY did we switch from spork packets to individual items?

- **11.5 million spork packets are purchased for elementary schools each year**
 - Spork packets cost over \$170,000 annually
 - Each spork packet contains one:
 - plastic spork
 - plastic straw
 - paper napkin
 - plastic wrapper
 - Students must take a spork packet that contains every item, even if they only need one item in the packet
- **Spork packets can create litter and impact our local environment**
 - Plastic wrappers from spork packets are easily blown around campus creating excess litter and making additional work for custodial staff
 - Plastic sporks, straws, and wrappers can make their way into storm drains and eventually to our oceans and beaches, negatively impacting our marine environment
- **Individual utensils provide choices, reduce waste, and save money**
 - Providing individual sporks and napkins and eliminating straws:
 - Allows students to choose the specific item(s) they need
 - Reduces plastic waste headed to the landfill by nearly 23 million pieces per year
 - Reduces litter on campus and saves time in clean up
 - Saves money – it's estimated that the District can save between \$25,000 - \$40,000 per year by purchasing sporks and napkins individually



Your feedback is important! Please provide feedback to the kitchen manager at your school or Janet Whited, Environmental Specialist at jwhited@sandi.net or 858-637-6268.