

# Refilling Returnable Food Containers: Guide for food service workers

## What kind of food container can be refilled?

One that...

- Follows the Maine Food Code
- The establishment initially provides to consumer
  - The consumer cannot bring their own personal container
- The customer used and gave back
- Is designed and constructed for re-use



### Containers Must:

- Be returned to the establishment by the consumer after use
- Be washed, rinsed, and sanitized by the establishment

### Container Inspection

Containers must be visually inspected each time and be free of breaks, open seams, cracks, chips, inclusions, pits, and similar imperfections.



### Health Inspection Program

Maine DHHS's Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
Tel: (207) 287-5671 | Email: [hiplicensing.dhhs@maine.gov](mailto:hiplicensing.dhhs@maine.gov)  
[www.maine.gov/healthinspection](http://www.maine.gov/healthinspection)