

[< Back](#) | [Home](#)

Dining Services taking action on cups

By:

Posted: 10/8/08

To the Editor:

In response to the article in Friday's Herald regarding Dining Services' phaseout of plastic tumblers ("Budget slows replacement of possibly unhealthy cups," October 3), I want to clarify the actions BDS has taken regarding plastic tumblers in use in both the Verney-Woolley and Sharpe Refectory dining halls.

In late August, we were able to source a BPA-free tumbler that met our specifications. We tested the performance of these new tumblers during the first several weeks of the semester when both operations were at full capacity. As a result, the entire V-W inventory was replaced in September and the Refectory inventory is being swapped out over the next several weeks. Dining Services' primary concern has been and continues to be the health and safety of our customers.

Though the Federal Food and Drug Administration - which formed a Task Force in April of this year to review concerns about the safety of BPA - has not recommended the discontinuation of products that contain BPA, Dining Services decided this summer to act in the event that the evidence eventually affirms the health concerns raised by the Canadian government.

Ann Hoffman

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Oct. 7

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