

Elizabeth Public Library Food and Drink Policy

The Elizabeth Public Library seeks to provide all users with a welcoming, comfortable, and safe environment promoting intellectual exploration and learning, access to well-managed and diverse library collections, and the help of knowledgeable staff. The Library's Food and Drink Policy seeks to balance the comfort and convenience of Library users with the need to protect and preserve Library resources.

The **Library Flex Space (at top of the Broad Street stairs in the EMID waiting area)** is a **food-friendly location**, and the **recommended location** for the consumption of all snacks in the Library. **No hot food or food which would be considered a meal is allowed – snacks only!**

Limited food and drink consumption in other areas of the Library is permitted. *Areas where food & drink are not permitted are noted below.*

All Library users are expected to:

Be considerate of others using the Library.

- Do not consume smelly, messy, or noisy snacks in spaces where it will interfere with others' use or enjoyment of the Library.
- Clean up any trash, crumbs, and small spills when finished.

Be respectful of Library collections, equipment, and furnishings.

- Take care with food and drink around books and other library materials, computers, equipment, carpets, and furniture.
- Make sure hands and surfaces are clean when handling Library materials.

Be responsible with food and drink in the Library.

- Use covered, spill-proof containers when possible.
- Properly dispose of trash and leftovers.
- Deposit bottles, cans, and other recyclables in designated recycling bins.

Report larger spills, accidents, or damage immediately to Library staff.

Aside from the Flex Space, limited quantities of food/drink may be consumed at tables or seating areas without Library computer equipment or microfilm readers. No food or drink may be consumed at the research tables outside the Local History Room. When in doubt, please consult with our staff.

Additional guidelines:

- Delivery to Library buildings (e.g., pizza delivery), excessive quantities of food or drink, large group meals, and other distracting or disruptive activities are prohibited.
- Distribution of food or drink in Library public spaces is not permitted unless authorized in advance by Library Administration. Direct questions to the Administration Office by email eploffice@elizpl.org or phone 908-354-6060.
- Consumption of alcohol is prohibited in Library buildings.
- Cooking, cooking appliances, and open flames are prohibited in Library public spaces.

The Library reserves the right to ask anyone to relocate, remove, or dispose of food and drink in case of complaints or if found to be in violation of this Policy.

Failure to cooperate with Library employee or Security staff requests regarding food and drink or to comply with posted policies constitutes a violation of the Rules of Conduct of the Elizabeth Public Library, and could lead to a request to leave the building.