



ZION-BENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Food and Drink Policy

The Zion-Benton Public Library District strives to create welcoming, clean, and comfortable environments for the public. Consistent with this goal, food and drink are allowed in the Library on a limited basis and should be consumed in a considerate and responsible manner. Food and drink pose a potential risk to library collections, equipment, and furnishings. In order to protect our resources and facilities from damage, library users are required to act responsibly when consuming food and drink in the Library.

- Foods are limited to pre-packaged snacks, finger foods, or wrapped items that are odorless and unlikely to leave stains, such as granola bars, nuts, and pretzels.
- Food consumption is not permitted at or near any computers, technology equipment, when using genealogy materials, in the Youth Services wing, in the Teen Space, or in the Sandbox, unless provided by staff or as a part of library programming.
- Consuming non-alcoholic beverages is permitted in the library. Beverages must be in spill-resistant containers with secure caps or covers.
- Patrons are expected to properly dispose of all trash and inform staff immediately of any spills, so that cleaning can be done.
- The Library reserves the right to disallow food in any area if its consumption interferes with the operation of the Library.

Patrons found consuming food or beverages in violation of this policy will be asked to take the food and drink out of the Library.

Refusal to follow the Food and Drink Policy may result in suspension of library privileges.

Refreshments served during Zion-Benton Public Library programs and activities may contain or have come in contact with allergens such as peanuts, tree nuts, soy, eggs, wheat, fish, shellfish, dairy products, etc. Caregivers of persons with food allergies and persons with food allergies are responsible for monitoring food and beverage intake. Food labels and packaging will be available for review upon request.

The Library does not monitor food brought in by outside groups.

Adopted 11/27/2018, Reviewed 2/27/2024, Reviewed 9-29-26