

Korean Air upgrades inflight meal containers



This marks an update from the containers used for the past two decades

[Korean Air](#) is upgrading the inflight meal containers it has used for the past two decades with sustainable, plant-based alternatives.

Beginning in December, the airline will gradually introduce entrée containers made from non-wood pulp derived from materials such as straw, sugarcane and bamboo. The initiative supports Korean Air's efforts to reduce plastic use and contribute to global carbon-reduction goals. Following initial rollout on select routes this December, the airline plans to expand the new containers across its entire network by the end of 2026.



The containers will be used for entrées offered on board, particularly Korean and Western meals in Economy Class

Made from plant-based pulp that does not require cutting down trees, the containers offer an eco-friendly alternative to traditional plastic and paper products. The containers also provide strong heat resistance and durability, maintaining shape during extended exposure to high temperatures. According to the November 25 press release, Korean Air expects the transition to reduce related carbon emissions by approximately 60 percent.

"This transition to new inflight meal containers is an essential long-term investment in environmental protection and sustainable operations," said a Korean Air representative. "We remain committed to advancing our sustainability initiatives, aligning with global decarbonization trends in aviation, and delivering greater value to our customers."

Korean Air continues to expand its sustainability initiatives across its operations. In 2023, it replaced single-use plastic cutlery with bamboo alternatives and introduced unbleached bamboo-fiber napkins. The airline also carries out upcycling programs such as transforming retired cabin crew uniforms into medical pouches and repurposing end-of-cycle inflight blankets into reusable hot-water bag covers, reducing waste and extending the life of onboard materials.