



Get ready for the single-use plastic items ban

starting on 1 September 2021

Half of all plastic produced in the world is designed to be used only once—and then thrown away. This is a huge contributor to the 300 million tonnes of plastic waste created every year, almost equivalent to the weight of the entire human population.

The Queensland Government is taking action to fight plastic waste and pollution, starting with a ban on some single-use plastic items.

Single-use plastic items included in the ban:

- straws: regular straws, flexible straws, straws with a scoop, cocktail straws and bubble tea straws
- stirrers: hot or cold drink stirrers, swizzle sticks and hot or cold food stirrers
- plates and bowls including single-use expanded polystyrene plates
- cutlery: knives, forks, spoons, teaspoons, sample tasting spoons, soup spoons, chopsticks, splayds and sporks
- expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups.



WHAT ALTERNATIVES CAN I USE?

STRAWS **

AVOID

Remove straws from any area that is accessible to the public. Have straws by request only, you can communicate this with signage.



REUSE

Use reusable bamboo, glass, stainless steel or silicone straws. There is also an option to sell for fundraisers.



COMPOSTABLE

Provide upon request sustainably sourced paper, wheat/pasta straws. Avoid oxo-biodegradable straws, these are banned. Note: Single-use alternatives containing compostable plastics must meet Australian Standards*.

CUTLERY

AVOID

Ask people if they actually need cutlery. Provide and minimise to only what is needed (e.g. rather than wooden teaspoons, can you use paddle-pop sticks?).



REUSE

Utilise any reusables that may be on hand, or have a collection of reusable cutlery that can be returned.



COMPOSTABLE

Provide upon request sustainably sourced wooden or bamboo cutlery. Note: Single-use alternatives containing compostable plastics must meet Australian Standards*.

BOWLS & PLATES

AVOID

Ask if plates and bowls are required (e.g. for a sausage sizzle, paper napkins can replace plates).



REUSE

Utilise any reusable plates that may be on hand (e.g. at venues that have a wash up option), or provide your own.



COMPOSTABLE

Provide sustainability sourced compostable plates and bowls such as bagasse (sugarcane), bamboo or paper. Note: Single-use alternatives containing compostable plastics must meet Australian Standards*.

EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE

AVOID

If food is consumed on site, you may be able to eliminate the need for food containers. Do not provide cups for self-serve water stations, encourage BYO.



REUSE

Provide reusable options where possible, and encourage BYO cups through social media and community networks.



COMPOSTABLE

Use sustainably sourced unlined or bioplastic lined paper/board, bagasse (sugarcane), bamboo cups and containers. Note that alternatives that are plates or bowls must also comply with the ban.

Additional Notes

- * Single-use alternatives which contain compostable bioplastics must meet one of the following Australian Composting Standards: Home - AS 5810-2010 and Industrial AS4736-2006
- ** Straws that are already attached to poppers or other similar products are exempt from the ban

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVES



For further information on the ban, please refer to the Qld Department of Environment and Science website.
www.des.qld.gov.au

Advice provided by:

