

Get ready for the

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS BAN

A GUIDE FOR BUSINESSES

Designed to be used just once, and then thrown away, many single-use plastic items are part of the growing issue of plastic waste and pollution.

From 1 September 2021, businesses in Queensland are not allowed to supply:

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC
STRAWS & STIRRERS



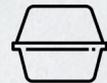
SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC CUTLERY



SINGLE-USE PLASTIC
BOWLS & PLATES



EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE
TAKEAWAY FOOD CONTAINERS & CUPS



The ban applies to all businesses and penalties for non-compliance apply.

Straws & Utensils

Banned

The **ban applies** to single-use plastic straws, stirrers, swizzle sticks, forks, spoons, knives, sporks, splayds, chopsticks and food picks.



Allowed

First, consider if you need to keep supplying these items as many customers may not need them. Then look at reusable items made from metal or glass.

If you need a disposable alternative, consider sustainably-sourced paper, wood or bamboo. Single-use alternatives which contain compostable plastics must meet Australian Standards (see page 4 for more information).



The ban **does not apply** to serving utensils like tongs, or items included in shelf-ready, pre-packaged food and beverage goods (eg. straw attached to juice box).

Bowls & Plates

Banned

The **ban applies** to unenclosed single-use plastic bowls or plates, including those made from expanded polystyrene.



Allowed

First consider reusable plates and bowls made from metal or ceramic, or dishwasher-safe reusable plastic items.

If you need a disposable alternative, consider sustainably-sourced paper, sugarcane pulp (bagasse), wood or bamboo. Single-use alternatives which contain compostable plastics must meet Australian Standards (see page 4 for more information).



The ban **does not apply** to servingware, bowls or plates in shelf-ready pre-packaged food and beverage goods (e.g. bowl in frozen meal), or other takeaway containers (e.g. sushi containers, triangle sandwich containers, or bowls and containers with lids).

Expanded Polystyrene

Banned

The **ban applies** to single-use takeaway food containers and cups made from expanded polystyrene (EPS).



Allowed

First consider reusable containers or cups made from glass, metal, ceramic, or reusable plastic.

If you need a disposable alternative, consider sustainably-sourced paper, sugarcane pulp (bagasse), wood or bamboo. Note that alternatives that are bowls and plates must comply with the ban (see left)



The ban **does not apply** to EPS trays (e.g. trays used for raw meat, fruit or vegetables), EPS business-to-business transport containers, or EPS in shelf-ready pre-packaged goods.

Exempt organisations: Only the following organisations can continue to supply banned items after the ban begins: clinics or facilities that provide care to persons with a disability or healthcare needs; hospitals; dental clinics; medical clinics; pharmacies; aged care facilities; medical suppliers; and manufacturers/distributors when they supply to these organisations. This exemption is designed to ensure that Queenslanders with disability or healthcare needs can continue to access banned items.

3 Steps To Prepare

1 PLAN AHEAD

Stop **ordering** banned items **now** and look at ways to use up existing stock. Also, check with your supplier if you can return stock.

2 CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS

a. First, think about reducing consumption and whether you need to keep supplying these items (e.g. many customers don't need cutlery for take-home food). Reducing the amount of items you give away can also minimise unnecessary costs to your business.

b. Second, look at whether you can use reusable items (e.g. changing to dishwasher-safe tableware if most customers dine in-store). You may like to sell reusable items and encourage your customers to BYO items.

c. Then, if you still need disposable alternatives, talk to your supplier about the most sustainable long-term options such as sustainably-sourced paper, wood or bamboo.

3 EDUCATE STAFF & CUSTOMERS

Help your staff and customers **prepare** for the ban, and inform them of the changes you have decided to make. You may want to display signage, which is available in multiple languages at www.qldplasticsban.com.au

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR SUPPLIER

(Get answers in writing)

Please note that it is an offence to supply banned items, or to provide false or misleading information about whether an item is banned from 1 September 2021.

- Do these items **comply** with the Queensland legislation that will come into effect on 1 September 2021?
- Are the items **food grade** quality? Are they certified as such?
- Do these items contain any form of **plastic** or **compostable plastic**?
(no matter how small, e.g. glue, coating)
 - › Compostable plastics require specific conditions to break down and can still cause harm to wildlife or the environment if littered.

Single-use alternatives for straws, stirrers, cutlery, bowls and plates which contain compostable plastics (such as PLA or PHA) must meet one of the following Australian Standards:



Home Compostable

AS 5810-2010
suitable for home
composting

or



Compostable

AS 4736-2006
only suitable for industrial
composting

Your supplier must provide clear and legible information about these certifications (e.g. labelling, invoices, or order records).

MORE INFORMATION

Website: www.qldplasticsban.com.au

Tollfree business hotline: **1800 844 946**

Email: sustainability@nra.net.au



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