



## Single-use plastics bans

Information for community groups that  
organise services, fundraising or events

There are plenty of practical ways you can ensure your next community event or fundraiser meets the requirements of the Plan for Plastics bans. Use the checklist below to get started.

### 1. Plan ahead

- Check which items in your range need to change.
- Stop ordering banned items now and use up existing supply for upcoming bans.
- Order alternatives well ahead of the ban deadlines to avoid supply issues.
- If you have large amounts of stock, chat to your suppliers as they may accept returns or exchanges.
- If you cannot use up, return or exchange your stock in time, contact a [local recycler](#) to see whether they can take some items.

Remember, you cannot continue to use banned stock after the enforcement dates, even if you purchased or acquired it beforehand.



### 2. Weigh up your best long-term options

#### First, think about ways to avoid

Do you need to keep providing items like straws, plates, bowls, lids and cutlery if most of your community do not need them?

#### Next, explore reusable options

Can you use reusable, washable alternatives and reduce the number of items you give away?

What can you do to encourage your community to bring their own?

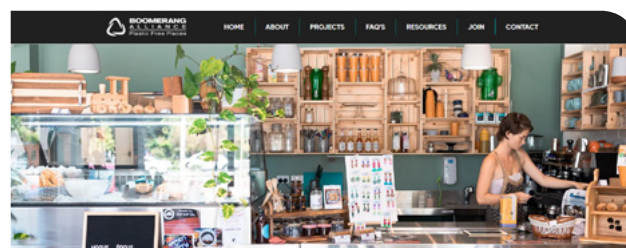
The [Plastic Free Places WA](#) specialist team can provide **one-on-one advice** and suggest some easy but effective changes.

#### If you still need disposable items

What are the allowed alternatives? Are they permitted and safe for service? Check the [WA Plastics Ban](#) website for specific rules and options.

Consider ways to reduce the number of disposable items you supply to help change habits and potentially reduce costs.

If you are unsure of your options, you can speak to specialists at the [Plastic Free Places](#) team or contact the [National Retail Association](#).



#### PLASTIC FREE PLACES WA

Our long-running program in WA is funded by the WA State Government as a way to support hospitality retailers through the ban, and beyond.

We accept membership from any hospitality retailer in Perth and surrounds.

JOIN WA!



### 3. Speak to your supplier

Ask your supplier to answer these questions **in writing** before you order alternatives:

1. Do these items comply with the WA plastics legislation (both Stage 1 and Stage 2 bans)?
2. Do these items contain any form of plastic or compostable plastic?
  - Compostable plastic alternatives are also banned for most items.
  - The only exemptions are bowls, trays, containers or cups which have a plastic or bioplastic lining/coating AND:
    - are primarily made from paperboard or fibre
    - have achieved Australian Standard composting certification (either AS 5810:2010 or AS 4736:2006).
  - Lids for bowls, containers and trays have the same exemption.
  - Produce bags which have achieved an Australian Standard composting certification are also exempt.
  - Remember that cup lids, shopping bags, cotton bud sticks, plates and utensils must be plastic free.
3. Do these items contain any degradable (fragmentable) plastic or banned types of expanded plastic packaging?

Degradable plastics typically have an additive that causes the product to disintegrate more quickly than normal. If unsure, ask for more information or try an alternative.

Note that it is an offence to supply banned items or to provide false or misleading information about a banned item. If your supplier is unsure whether the item is banned, you can recommend they check the website ([plasticsbanwa.com.au](http://plasticsbanwa.com.au)), contact the National Retail Association or attend a [free information session](#).

### 4. Educate

- Prepare staff and volunteers for questions about the ban and the changes you have decided to make.
- Inform your community ahead of time and prepare them for the changes you are making to comply with the ban.
- Make sure food and beverage staff know that they are allowed to provide an individual plastic straw on request with food or beverages (and do not have to ask for a reason) but must not have these on display.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has a series of [social media posts](#) that you can use to raise awareness with your community about alternatives to the banned items.



### Frequently asked questions

#### Can we still supply takeaway coffee?

**Yes.** Takeaway coffees can still be served. Community groups can use disposable coffee cups made from lined paperboard that are certified as compostable, and paperboard lids. Remind and encourage your community to bring their own reusable cups.

#### If we aren't selling the food or beverage, can we still serve using banned items?

**No.** The Plan for Plastics bans apply to all items, whether they are provided free, sold, or part of a fundraising activity. Check the steps above to ensure your group complies with the bans.

You will find further information including fact sheets and [FAQs for community groups](#) on the [Western Australia's Plan for Plastics website](#).