



Single-use plastic items ban

starting on 1 September 2021

Many single-use plastic items are part of the growing issue of plastic waste and pollution.

From 1 September 2021, the Queensland Government has banned the supply of single-use plastic straws, stirrers, plates, bowls, cutlery and expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups.

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.





Information for schools

An exemption is available for schools to ensure students and staff with disability or healthcare needs can access the banned items they need, while at school or during school activities.

Schools are responsible for managing the distribution of single-use plastic items to students and staff who require them. Ancillary and commercial activities should not be designated as the location to distribute single-use plastic items.

Suppliers, distributors and wholesalers of single-use plastic items may continue to supply these items to schools for this purpose.

What's not included in the ban?

Tuckshops can continue to sell shelf-ready, pre-packaged items that have an attached single-use plastic straw or cutlery item, for example:

- juice drink with attached straw
- tuna tin with attached fork
- noodle container with attached stirrer.



Single-use alternatives which contain compostable plastics must meet one of the following Australian Standards:

- AS 5810-2010 Biodegradable Plastics—Biodegradable Plastics Suitable for Home Composting

or

- AS 4736-2006 Biodegradable Plastics Suitable for Composting and Other Microbial Treatment.

To help reduce plastic waste, schools are strongly encouraged to avoid single-use plastic items wherever possible and if an alternative is required, replace them with a more sustainable option such as bamboo straws or cutlery.

Information for the broader school community

The following ancillary and commercial activities are not exempt from the ban and cannot supply banned items from 1 September 2021:

- Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) hosted on school premises or operated by a school
- boarding school catering operations
- Parents and Citizens' (P&C) Associations
- Parents and Friends' (P&F) Associations.

When schools participate in camps, excursions or sporting events held at an external venue (i.e. not on a school site) or managed by a third-party, banned items will not be able to be provided by these venues or their operator.

From 1 September 2021, schools will need to provide their own single-use plastic items for students or staff with a disability or healthcare needs.

More information

To support the transition away from single-use plastic items, the National Retail Association and Boomerang Alliance have been appointed by the Queensland Government to inform Queenslanders about the ban.

Learn more about the single-use plastics ban at www.qld.gov.au/plasticsban

