



# 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.





## Single-use plastic items **not** included in the ban:

- straws and cutlery attached to a shelf-ready, pre-packaged product like a juice box with an attached plastic straw or a yoghurt with an attached plastic spoon
- other single-use plastic takeaway food containers including sushi containers, triangle sandwich containers, food containers with a plastic window and bowls with lids
- serving platters and trays
- foam or plastic trays such as meat and packaged fruit and vegetable trays.



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.

## Access for Queenslanders with disability or healthcare needs

Queenslanders with disability or healthcare needs may still need to access banned items and that's why the following businesses are exempt from the ban:

- clinics or facilities that provide care to persons with a disability or health needs
- hospitals
- dental clinics
- medical clinics
- pharmacies
- aged care facilities
- medical suppliers.

Suppliers, distributors and wholesalers may continue to sell banned items to these exempt businesses.

## What you can do now

All Queensland businesses and not-for-profit organisations will be required to stop supplying banned single-use plastic items after the ban begins, including supermarkets, cafes, hotels and takeaway food shops.

You are encouraged to identify whether banned items still need to be provided to customers, and if so, what they can be replaced with. If you have excess stock, you may also wish to contact your supplier to understand their returns policy.

The National Retail Association, a member of the Queensland Government's Single-use Plastic Items Ban Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), has been appointed to work with businesses to ensure they understand the ban and what they must do to comply, as well as options to manage excess stock.

Visit the National Retail Association website [www.qldplasticsban.com.au](http://www.qldplasticsban.com.au) for more information or call their support hotline on 1800 844 946.

Boomerang Alliance, also a member of the SAG, has been appointed to work with not-for-profit organisations. Learn more at [www.boomerangalliance.org.au](http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au).

## Compliance

The Queensland Government is using an education-first approach to ensure businesses and not-for-profit organisations are prepared for the ban. Penalties may apply after 1 September 2021 for businesses and not-for-profit organisations that supply banned items, or provide false or misleading information about banned items or their compostability.

## Actions for Queenslanders

There are plenty of things Queenslanders can do to reduce the use of single-use plastics and plastic waste. Some simple tips include:

- purchasing reusable products over disposable ones
- choosing products with less plastic packaging
- choosing products made from recycled materials
- recycling as many plastic products as you can through your kerbside recycling bin or outdoor recycling bins
- return your drink containers at a Containers for Change refund point
- remember 'soft, scrunchable' plastics don't go in kerbside recycling bins but can be returned to REDcycle bins at participating supermarkets
- avoid unnecessary plastic products like balloons (including plastic clips and sticks), ribbons and tickertape.

Learn more about the **single-use plastics ban** at [www.qld.gov.au/plasticsban](http://www.qld.gov.au/plasticsban)

