

Western Australia's

Plan for Plastics

Single-use plastics ban Plastic cups

January 2022

From 1 January 2022, regulations to ban the sale, supply and distribution of single-use or disposable plastic cups in Western Australia come into effect.

Businesses, organisations and consumers who use these items are being supported to switch to reusable and non-plastic alternatives.

In the 2019–20 financial year, Western Australians used an estimated 93.5 MILLION cold beverage cups.



► What is being banned?

The ban applies to the sale, supply or distribution of single-use disposable plastic cups for cold drinks or any temperature of food. This includes cups made wholly or partly of plastic, or paper cups lined with plastic. This includes packs of disposable cups sold by retailers, and individual cups supplied or sold by hospitality businesses and other organisations.

Banned cups include those made from compostable, biodegradable and degradable plastics. The presence of a lid or film does not affect the ban on plastic cups.

A nine-month transition period for plastic cups, to 1 October 2022, has been provided to enable everyone to prepare.



Why are bioplastics included?



Bioplastics are made from plant or other organic material instead of hydrocarbon oils. Bioplastics are plastic, and behave the same way as regular plastics in the environment. Bioplastics can contaminate recycling streams and often require separate collection systems and industrial composting.

► Why are plastic cups being banned?

About 40 per cent of all plastics used are 'single-use', designed to be used only once or a few times before being thrown away (disposed of). While recyclable, only 11 per cent of single-use plastics are currently recycled, with the majority ending up as litter or in landfills.

In the environment plastic waste breaks down into smaller fragments over a long period of time, if at all. Plastic waste poses a major threat to the health of marine, freshwater and land ecosystems and impacts the amenity of our environment and coastlines. The impact and abundance of single-use disposable plastic items is significant, and immediate action is required to reduce these impacts.

► What is **not** included in the ban?

Disposable cups currently require a polymer lining to be suitable to carry food or drink. To support transition away from plastic cups an exception is provided for polymer-lined paperboard cups where the product is certified to Australian Standard 4736-2006 or 5810-2010. Products that are not certified, but are seeking certification, can enquire about supply arrangements.

Plastic or plastic-lined takeaway coffee cups are not included in the Stage 1 bans, and are included in Stage 2 (end 2022). Polystyrene cups are also exempt and will be targeted in Stage 2.

Heavier-weight cups designed for multiple use and sold as individual items or in sets by retailers (e.g. reusable cups such as keep cups, outdoor dinner cups and mugs, and cups designed for use by children) are not included in the ban.



Plastic cups that form part of a pre-packaged product are exempt from the ban.



► Who does the ban apply to?

The ban applies to all businesses, manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers and distributors in Western Australia. Community organisations and institutions may also be affected by the ban.

► Can I still use disposable plastic cups I have at home?

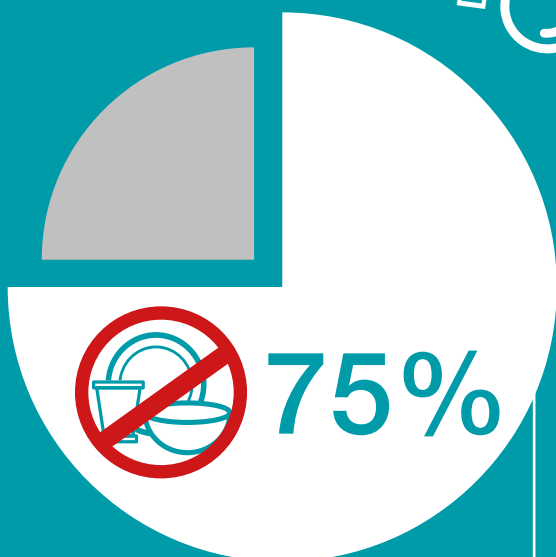
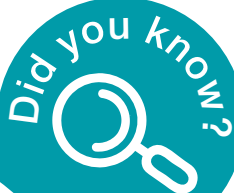
Yes, you can. The ban does not apply to the personal use of the items, only the sale, supply and distribution of them.

► What can I use instead?

There are many options to choose from that are better for the planet and prevent waste going to landfill. Choose to:

- Refuse – say 'No' to plastic cups
- Reuse – opt for reusable cups made from stainless steel, ceramic, silicone, glass, aluminium and heavier reusable plastics. Where possible, businesses should consider switching to washable and reusable cups.

If you simply can't refuse and reusable options are not available, then consider disposable cup alternatives made from lined paperboard that are certified as compostable to Australian Standard 4736-2006 or 5810-2010.



75% of the people surveyed in WA told us they support a ban on single-use plastic plates, bowls and cups.

► When do penalties apply?

From **1 October 2022** penalties apply for the sale, supply or distribution of plastic cups that are banned under the Environmental Protection (Prohibited Plastics and Balloons) Regulations 2018. This is to allow time for everyone to adapt.

Penalties also apply to any person who supplies or manufactures plastic cups and knowingly provides false or misleading information about its composition or whether or not it is a banned plastic cup.

► Need more information?

Call the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation: 08 6364 7000

Email: plastic-action@dwer.wa.gov.au

Check out the website:
[Western Australia's Plan for Plastics](#) | [Western Australian Government](#)
(www.wa.gov.au)

