



Navigating the banning of single-use plastics in Australia.

Winc's guide to
everything you
need to know.

Plastic litter is one of the most insidious forms of pollution. Australia produces 2.5m tonnes of plastic waste each year, about 84% of which is sent to landfill. It is also estimated that 130,000 tonnes of plastic waste leaks into the environment annually and that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish by weight. This is why single-use plastics are to be phased out in Australia by 2025.



Types of plastics

The following single-use plastics are included in state bans or under consideration for upcoming single-use plastics legislation.

<p>PET Polyethylene terephthalate Soft drink bottles, bottled water, food trays</p> 	<p>RPET Recycled polyethylene terephthalate Soft drink bottles, bottled water, food jars</p> 	<p>PLA Polylactic acid Beverage cups, food containers and lids, sandwich wedges, soup containers</p> 
<p>CPLA Crystallised polylactic acid Cutlery, hot beverage lids</p> 	<p>PP Polypropylene Yoghurt containers, butter tubs, medicine bottles, microwavable food containers, hot food containers</p> 	<p>PE Polyethylene (High density & low density) HDPE – yoghurt cups, milk bottles, shampoo bottles, washing liquid bottles LDPE – grocery bags, plastic wrap, sandwich bags, frozen food bags PE – lined coffee cups</p> 
<p>PS Polystyrene Beverage cups, plastic utensils, clamshell takeaway packaging, disposable dinnerware, egg cartons</p> 	<p>PMMA Acrylic or polymethyl methacrylate Lenses, medical devices</p> 	<p>PA Polyamide or nylon Cosmetics</p> 



About this guide

Single-use plastic bans are designed and implemented at a state and territory level. Winc has prepared this handy guide to support customers as they navigate these changes and to help them achieve their workplace sustainability goals.

What are single-use plastics?

Single-use plastics are disposable plastics intended to be used only once before being thrown away or recycled. This includes things like shopping bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery. Around 40% of the plastics consumed in Australia are single-use and only 12% of the plastics we use end up recycled.

State by state rundown

This listing contains an outline of how each state and territory is managing the single-use plastic ban, what items will be banned and when. This information was compiled with the assistance of Biopak.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA South Australia was the first state to enforce a ban on a selection of single-use plastics. Legislation passed in 2020 with a staged ban commencing 1 March 2021, to be completed 1 March 2022.

STAGE 1: 1 MARCH 2021

INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery, including polylactic acid (PLA) compostable versions of these items

EXEMPT FROM THE BAN:

- Single-use plastic items that are an integral part of shelf-ready products (e.g. straws attached to juice boxes, forks included in prepacked salads, spoons attached to yoghurt containers, plates forming part of a frozen meal)
- Expanded polystyrene cups or expanded polystyrene bowls that form part of the packaging of a pre-packaged, single-serve food or beverage product that is ready for immediate consumption (or consumption after heating)

STAGE 2: 1 MARCH 2022

INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Expanded polystyrene (EPS) cups, bowls, plates and containers, and all oxo-degradable products

EXEMPT FROM THE BAN:

- PLA bioplastic cups, bowls and lined paper cups are NOT banned
- Single-use plastic items that are an integral part of shelf-ready products (e.g. straws attached to juice boxes, forks included in prepacked salads, spoons attached to yoghurt containers, plates forming part of a frozen meal)
- Expanded polystyrene cups or expanded polystyrene bowls that form part of the packaging of a pre-packaged, single-serve food or beverage product that is ready for immediate consumption (or consumption after heating)

QUEENSLAND Queensland passed legislation to ban a selection of single-use plastics on 11 March 2021. This was introduced on 1 September 2021.

STAGE 1: 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, bowls, expanded polystyrene (EPS) cups and containers

EXEMPT FROM THE BAN:

- Compostable plastics and other packaging items certified Industrially (AS4736) or home (AS5810) compostable to the Australian standards
- Single-use plastic items that are an integral part of shelf-ready products (e.g. straws attached to juice boxes, forks included in prepacked salads, spoons attached to yoghurt containers and plates forming part of a frozen meal)

TASMANIA While there is no state-wide ban yet, Hobart City Council was the first council to pass legislation to ban all single-use plastic foodservice packaging in March 2020. The City now has a by-law that bans single-use plastics at takeaway food retailers, which was made enforceable from 1 July 2021.

HOBART: 1 JULY 2021

INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- All plastic single-use takeaway packaging

EXEMPT FROM THE BAN:

- Compostable plastics and other packaging items certified Industrially (AS4736) compostable to the Australian standards, European Standard (EN13432) or United States of America Standard (D6400)

On 16 March 2021, the Tasmanian government said it would set a goal to phase out the use of single-use plastics, with the aim of phasing in “the removal of single-use plastics from government and council facilities, and events held on publicly owned land across the state by 2023.” This will require consultation with Local Government and no Bills have been tabled as yet.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY Stage 1 bans came into effect 1 July 2021. Stage 2 legislation has not yet passed, but this is expected to commence 1 July 2022.

STAGE 1: 1 JULY 2021

INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Plastic cutlery, drink stirrers, including PLA bioplastic versions of these items
- Expanded polystyrene (EPS) takeaway food and beverage containers
- Single-use plastic shopping bags (made of polyethylene with a thickness of less than 35 microns)

EXEMPT FROM THE BAN:

- PLA bioplastic is currently an acceptable replacement product for expanded polystyrene takeaway food and beverage containers
- Single-use items that are an integrated packaging item (e.g. straws attached to juice boxes, cup noodles, salad cutlery, frozen meal plates etc)
- Compostable bags and fruit and vegetable barrier bags

STAGE 2: 1 JULY 2022

INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Plastic straws
- Single-use plastic fruit and vegetable “barrier bags”
- All other plastic products made from non-compostable degradable plastics prescribed by the legislation

EXEMPT FROM THE BAN:

- Compostable packaging alternatives are not included on the banned plastics list

WESTERN AUSTRALIA Legislation is being drafted and stage 1 is expected to be implemented on 31 December 2021, with medium-term ban in place in late 2022.

STAGE 1: 31 DECEMBER 2021

PROPOSED ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Plastic plates, bowls, cutlery, stirrers, straws, cups, thick plastic bags, expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and helium balloon releases. Including PLA compostable versions of these items

STAGE 2: LATE 2022

PROPOSED ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Barrier/produce bags
- Microbeads
- Polystyrene packaging & cups
- Coffee cups and lids
- Cotton buds with plastic shafts
- Oxo-degradable plastics (plastics designed to break up more rapidly into fragments under certain conditions)

EXEMPT FROM THE BAN:

- Reviewing position on compostable packaging alternatives

The disability, health and aged care sectors will likely be exempt from the ban in WA.

NEW SOUTH WALES Legislation is being discussed and expected to be passed by the end of 2021. Stage 1 is expected in mid-2022 with stage 2 to follow in late 2022.

STAGE 1: MID 2022

PROPOSED ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Single-use lightweight shopping bags (less than 35 microns thick), including those made from ‘degradable’ and ‘compostable’ plastic

STAGE 2: LATE 2022

PROPOSED ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Plastic straws
- Plastic stirrers
- Plastic cutlery
- Expanded polystyrene food service items
- Cotton-buds with plastic sticks
- Microbeads in rinse-off personal care and cosmetic products

VICTORIA Legislation is being discussed and expected to be passed in February 2022 with a single-use plastics ban introduced in February 2023.

STAGE 1: FEBRUARY 2023

PROPOSED ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE BAN:

- Plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, expanded polystyrene (EPS) food and drink containers, and plastic cotton bud sticks

The ban will not affect medical or scientific equipment, emergency management services, or people who require specific single-use plastic products due to disability or for health and safety. The government is working with the aged care and disability sectors to understand and develop exemptions for people who require straws or other single-use plastics.

“Compostable plastics can only breakdown when exposed to the right mixture of oxygen, moisture and heat. Compostable packaging must be placed in composters, not in recycling bins.”



What plastics can be recycled in Australia?

Plastics are made from non-renewable resources such as oil, gas and coal. By recycling plastic this conserves these natural resources, diverts non-biodegradable waste from landfill and enables the production of new plastic products.

- Rigid plastics are those moulded into hard shapes such as tubs and containers. Most councils in Australia accept this plastic for recycling. There are numerous plastic recyclers who will accept rigid plastics for recycling. This may be offered as a pick-up or drop-off service. For large businesses, plastic scrap bins may also be provided for collection of scraps on-site.
- Soft ‘scrunchable’ plastics like shopping, bread, pasta, lolly and dry cleaning bags. These can be recycled through the REDcycle program at participating supermarkets and other outlets.
- Plastic containers such as fruit punnets and takeaway food containers as well as plastic bottles and plastic toiletry containers.
- Look out for products that contain the Australasian Recycling Label clarifying what packaging is recyclable.

What is compostable packaging?

Compostable packaging is packaging which can be placed in a compost bin to decompose into nutrient-rich soil within a certain period of time. All materials in the packaging should be able to breakdown including the printing ink. Many bioplastics are made using plant extracts such as corn starch and sugarcane. Compostable plastics can only breakdown when exposed to the right mixture of oxygen, moisture and heat. Compostable packaging must be placed in composters, not in recycling bins.

What is the difference between home compostable products and commercially compostable products?

According to the Australian Standards for composting, the certification AS 5810 requires the compostable products to disintegrate after 180 days and completely biodegrade after 12 months in a home compost. For commercial composting, the certification AS 4736 requires the compostable products to disintegrate after 12 weeks and completely biodegrade after 6 months in a dedicated composting facility. For more information on these certifications, visit www.bioplastics.org.au

What can't be recycled?

- Plastic straws, cutlery and coffee cups are generally not accepted for recycling.
- Foam trays such as those used for meat and some fruit & veg are not recyclable.
- Polystyrene boxes, pellets and beads.



What are biodegradable plastics?

Biodegradable plastics can be either plant or oil-based and contain additional micro-organisms that slowly breakdown the material into smaller and smaller pieces. Although biodegradable plastics can decompose, the resulting byproducts may contaminate soil and organic matter, and as such, they cannot be placed into compost. Instead they require processing in specialised facilities and are not able to be included in kerbside recycling.

Managing waste in a world without single-use plastics

If you need support on managing your organisation's waste to meet your environmental requirements, talk to your Winc Account Manager or your waste management provider.

Single-use plastic ban compliance

Here's a guide for navigating the transition to more sustainable options to single-use plastics in Australia.



Item type	Reuse	Sustainable single-use option	Banned by 2025
Hot cups and lids	Reusable ceramic or glass cups	Recyclable hot cups	Traditional paper takeaway cups lined with plastic (PE)
Cold cups and lids	Glass or reusable plastic cups and bottles	Recyclable cups and lids (PET)	Traditional paper takeaway cups lined with plastic (PE)
Straws	BYO metal straws	Paper straws	Single-use plastic straws
Bags	Reusable bags	Paper bags	Single-use plastic bags
Cutlery	Metal cutlery	Wooden cutlery	Single-use plastic cutlery
Cartons and clams	Ceramic plates	Cardboard trays and boxes Cardboard food cones	Food packaging made from or lined with plastic Expanded polystyrene foam
Plates and bowls	Ceramics	Paper plates and bowls	Food packaging made from or lined with plastic

PET: Polyethylene terephthalate which can be recycled and used to manufacture new bottles and containers, thermoform packaging, strapping and are also used in fibre applications such as carpet and apparel.

PE: Polyethylene or polythene is a polymer primarily used for packaging. When used to coat paper cups, recycling is not possible due to the difficulty of separating the polyethylene in the recycling process.

Don't draw the short straw

In Australia, 2.47 billion plastic straws end up in landfill. They're lightweight, so once they're dropped or discarded, plastic straws easily blow into waterways and enter our oceans. Once in our oceans, they're extremely dangerous for our marine wildlife.



“In Australia, 2.47 billion plastic straws end up in landfill.”

Not so plastic fantastic

Did you know that 1.5 billion cotton buds are produced every day, with the average person disposing of 415 a year? Sadly, many of these cotton buds end up in our oceans. Once the cotton tips dissolve, all that's left is a small plastic stick which is easily ingested by birds, fish and other marine wildlife.

The problem with disposable coffee cups

If we lined up all the takeaway coffee cups we used in Australia each year, it would stretch around our Earth twice! Around 2.6 billion coffee cups end up in landfill each year. It's important to note that most takeaway coffee cups can't be recycled as they're made with a plastic lining. That plastic lining breaks down into microplastics. Animals that have eaten microplastics enter our food chain and can end up inside us!

Who is exempt from the single-use plastic ban?

Exemptions differ by state. In South Australia, single-use plastic straws continue to be made available to people with a disability or medical need. In the ACT, the use of single-use plastic cutlery in detainee or mental health patient-facing settings will be exempt from the legislation until 1 July 2022, while a trial is underway to identify safe alternatives. In Queensland, clinics or facilities that provide care to persons with a disability or healthcare needs, hospitals, dental clinics, medical clinics, schools, pharmacies, aged care facilities and medical suppliers are exempt from the ban.



8 ways to reduce plastic in your workplace

- Provide unlimited filtered tap water
- Gift reusable items to your workforce, for example, company branded keep cups
- Stock your kitchen with reusable plates, bowls and cutlery
- Request that suppliers use less plastic packaging
- Ask your team for ideas on how to cut the use of plastics in their roles
- Participate in Plastic Free July
- Amend your organisation's procurement policy to remove the purchase of single-use plastics
- Conduct a bin audit!

How to conduct a bin audit

- Separate your rubbish into piles while wearing gloves - batteries, paper, food, plastic bottles, plastic cutlery, soft plastic, cans, cardboard, glass
- Estimate the volume or percentage of waste in each pile (or accurately weigh if you have scales) and write this down
- Set goals to reduce those items most commonly found in your audit. What can you change to reduce the amount of that item ending up in your rubbish?

What is Winc doing to reduce the waste?

- Winc is proud to be a member of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO). A copy of our latest annual report and action plan can be found at www.winc.com.au/services/about-us/corporate-responsibility
- The paper used to make Winc delivery boxes is made from 100% recycled cardboard and paper.
- Our products have primary packaging that can be recycled through existing post-consumer recovery systems and these systems achieve the highest potential environment value (APCO rating)
- 40% of the waste produced by Winc currently gets recycled.

Avoiding waste to landfill and doing social good

- Winc has been a partner of Good360 since 2015. In that time, we have redirected more than 733,000 surplus items worth over \$5.2 million to the Australians who need them most. Close to 500 different not-for-profits and schools have been supported through this donation.
- We also support Foodbank in similar ways. In 2020, Winc helped provide 60,000 meals and donated more than a tonne of non-food items to Foodbank to help those less fortunate.

Need help?

Winc has identified a sustainable option to single-use plastics for every workplace need. For specialised advice on managing the single-use plastic ban for your organisation, contact your Winc Account Manager.



Working towards a more sustainable future.

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