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| SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN  Options to replace single-use plastic |  |



The Victorian Government is banning the sale and supply of some single-use plastic items from February 2023. Plastic pollution harms our health, wildlife and the environment. By banning these items, we will reduce plastic pollution, creating a healthier environment now and for years to come.

Alternatives to single-use plastic

The table below provides a list of various alternatives that can be used to replace the banned items.

When deciding what items to use:

* Always consider if you can avoid the item first, and then whether reusable options can be used.
* When you need to provide a single-use item, preference items certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
* To view a list of suppliers, see our [Supplier information sheet](https://www.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/euf)

Thanks for helping to keep our streets and waterways clean.

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| Product | Reusable option | Single-use alternative | Tips for success |
| Straws | * Provide reusable straws for dine in customers (metal, silicone) * Note, plastic straws will still be made available for medical or disability needs | * Paper, bamboo or wheat straws | * Quality paper straws last longer and the dye doesn’t run * Sell reusable straws to encourage re-use |
| Cutlery | * Provide reusable cutlery for dine in | * Forest Stewardship certified (FSC) bamboo or wooden cutlery | * Ask customers if they need cutlery before providing * Encourage customers to BYO cutlery for takeaway food |
| Plates | * Provide reusable plates for dine in * Encourage customers to BYO container for takeaway food\* | * Forest Stewardship certified (FSC) paper plate | * Offer a discount for customers who supply BYO containers |
| Drink stirrers | * Provide metal teaspoons | * Forest Stewardship certified drink stirrers or sticks (FSC) |  |
| Expanded polystyrene food containers | * Encourage customers to BYO food container\* | * Aluminium * FSC certified cardboard tray * Carboard container lined with commercially compostable plastic (e.g.: BioPak items) | * Encourage customers to BYO food container\* * Offer a discount for customers who supply BYO containers |
| Expanded polystyrene drink cups | * Encourage customers to BYO cup | * Carboard ‘coffee’ cup lined with commercially compostable plastic (e.g.: BioPak items) * Carboard ‘coffee’ cup lined with oil-based plastic | * Encourage customers to BYO cup * Offer a discount for customers who bring a BYO cup |
| Cotton bud sticks | * Sell reusable silicone ‘cotton’ swabs | * Sell cotton buds with paper or bamboo stick |  |

\* *For a guideline to accepting reusables, see our* [*BYO food containers guide*](https://moreland.vic.gov.au/euf) *and guidance from* [*Sustainability Victoria*](https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/recycling-and-reducing-waste/in-a-business-2/single-use-plastics-ban/accepting-reusables-at-your-business)