

Single-use plastic alternatives

Many of the following items align with the [Victorian Government single-use plastics ban](#). While this list does not specify every single-use plastic item, all single-use plastics should be avoided where possible.

The best option is reusable – see suggested items below or choose an item from the ‘next best option’ column if reusable is not possible or practicable.

Some reasons reusable may not be possible include:

- washing facility is not available or viable on site. Consider organisations that can provide this service for example B-Alternative
- single-use plastic items need to meet Food Safety or Occupational Health and Safety requirements or where there is no other practical alternative product or distribution method available and
- Victorian Government 2023 single-use plastics ban exemptions.

Victorian Government single-use plastics ban (February 2023)		
Banned item	Best option	Next best option
Plastic plates	BYO plates, bowls, containers	Serviettes, square of cardboard or other low impact alternative Paper or bamboo plates with no plastic lining
Plastic cutlery including knives, forks, spoons, chopsticks, sporks, splades, food picks and sporks	BYO cutlery Reusable cutlery	Wooden or bamboo cutlery*
Plastics straws	No straw BYO reusable straw Sell reusable straws	Paper or bamboo straw*
Plastic drink stirrers and sticks	Reusable teaspoons	Wooden stirrers*

Plastic bowls and cups (for hot liquid)	<p>BYO reusable bowls and cups</p> <p>Stallholders provide reusable mugs with an appropriate wash-up station</p>	<p>Paper cups with wax instead of plastic lining</p> <p>Certified compostable bowls and cups*</p>
Plastic cotton bud sticks	Reusable cotton buds	
Expanded polystyrene food and drink service containers including plates, cups, bowls, clam shells and any cover or lid	BYO takeaway packaging	Certified compostable food and drink service containers, bowls, cups*

Other common/problematic single-use plastics

Banned item	Best option	Next best option
Balloons, glitter and other plastic decorations	<p>Bunting, flags, banners, streamers or bubbles</p> <p>Paper decorations</p> <p>(Avoid laminating signs or other communications)</p>	
Plastic bags	<p>Paper bags</p> <p>Paper or cardboard packaging alternatives</p> <p>Reusable bags</p>	Compostable plastic bags*
Cling wrap	<p>Reusable containers</p> <p>Reusable silicone food covers and lids</p>	Compostable cling wrap*

Disposable coffee cups and lids	<p>BYO reusable coffee cup</p> <p>Provide reusable cups at a cost, through initiatives including but not limited to Huskee Cup, Green Caffein, One Good Cup, Skip Zero or Cercle</p>	Paper cups with wax instead of plastic lining or compostable cups*
Water bottles	<p>Drinking water available on site e.g. taps, portable re-fill stations, water dispensers</p> <p>BYO bottles</p>	<p>Drinks served in aluminium cans or glass bottles (both recyclable)</p> <p>Compostable cups*</p>
Bubble wrap	<p>No internal packaging</p> <p>Brown paper packaging, mesh or corrugated cardboard (recyclable)</p>	Corn starch peanuts*
Single-serve plastic condiments	<p>Serve in reusable containers or bottles</p> <p>Apply condiment for customer</p>	
Takeaway containers	BYO plate, container or vessel	Compostable takeaway containers*
Coffee pods	Different coffee machine and coffee beans	Coffee pod recycling program

*If these items are collected as a separate waste stream, they may be accepted by a commercial compost facility (if available). Refer to page 7 for more information.

For more information contact the Waste Reduction and Recycling Team at Whitehorse City Council by emailing wasteteam@whitehorse.vic.gov.au