

Cleaning up our ACT  
**SINGLE-USE  
PLASTICS**  
**BAN**

# Prohibited items

A stage 1 ban of single-use plastics from 1 July 2021 will prohibit businesses in the ACT from selling, supplying or distributing the following products.

## Single-use plastic cutlery

**PROHIBITED:** Utensils made from plastic that can be used to eat food (including cutlery made from bioplastics) which are designed to be used once before being thrown away. This includes single-use plastic spoons, forks, knives, sporks, splayds and chopsticks.

Soup style spoons (laksa spoons) will be exempt as there is no available alternative.



## Single-use plastic beverage stirrers

**PROHIBITED:** Beverage stirrers made from plastic (including stirrers made from bioplastics) which are designed to be used once before being thrown away.



### What is bioplastic?

Bioplastic is plastic made from plant or other biological material instead of petroleum. While they may be marketed as a suitable alternative to conventional plastics, these products are not truly biodegradable and only break down in certain conditions that do not occur naturally.

## Expanded polystyrene food and beverage containers

**PROHIBITED:** Food and beverage containers made from expanded polystyrene (such as foam/styrofoam clamshell containers) which are designed to be used once before being thrown away. This does not include expanded polystyrene meat and vegetable trays and containers and cups made from plastic or bioplastic.



### Need some help?

Check the website: [www.act.gov.au/single-use-plastics](http://www.act.gov.au/single-use-plastics)  
Call the ACT single-use plastics business hotline on **1800 844 946**  
Email: [singleuseplastics@act.gov.au](mailto:singleuseplastics@act.gov.au)

This material was developed in collaboration with the South Australian Government.



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# Alternative items

There are many ways to transition away from single-use plastic items, helping businesses and community organisations save money and avoid unnecessary waste.

## Reusable alternatives

The best outcome is to try to move away from any single use items where possible. You may be able to switch to washable and reusable alternatives as well as providing acceptable disposable items to customers on request. For example, customers ordering home delivered food are less likely to need disposable cutlery.

Reusable alternatives are made from materials such as glass, silicone, bamboo, titanium, stainless steel, ceramics and reusable plastics.



## Disposable alternatives

### Cutlery and stirrers

If you must provide disposable options, make sure the items are non-plastic. Bioplastic alternatives are also prohibited. There are plenty of acceptable alternatives for cutlery and stirrers including items made from wood and bamboo.



### Food and beverage containers

Alternatives for expanded polystyrene food and beverage containers include items made from paper or cardboard, bamboo, sugarcane, bagasse and aluminium foil. Conventional plastic and bioplastic containers are also permitted as alternatives at this stage.



## What to ask your supplier?

Ask your supplier what sustainable products they offer that are compliant with the ACT legislation. Penalties apply for suppliers or manufacturers found to have provided false or misleading information.

Remember that bioplastics are not permitted for cutlery and drink stirrers. Some products may not look like bioplastic but have binding agents or additives that are banned in cutlery and stirrers. Ask your supplier to confirm that no plastics or bioplastics are used.

Ask your supplier whether their suggested alternatives are certified as food safe, and that they will be appropriate for your products and customer safety (for example if they need to handle liquid, heat, freezing, microwaving or long shelf-life).

If your supplier is unsure of compliance or unable to provide compliant options, contact 1800 844 946.



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