

Single-use plastic and polystyrene food and drink containers are banned as of 1 October 2023

About the ban



The Environmental Protection (Plastic Plates etc. and Polystyrene Containers etc.) (England) Regulations 2023 prohibit the supply, or offering to supply, any single-use plastic plates, bowls and trays, cutlery and balloon sticks, or polystyrene food or drink containers and cups in England.

The ban applies to:

Single-use plastic



-  Straws
-  Cotton buds
-  Drink stirrers
-  Cutlery
-  Plates, bowls and trays
-  Balloon sticks

Polystyrene


-  Cups
-  Food or drink containers

Exemptions to the ban

Certain supplies of the items listed above are permitted to allow for situations where they may be required due to disability or accessibility issues. For example, the following supplies of plastic plates, bowls and trays are permitted:

-  supply to other businesses
-  where the item is "packaging" i.e., products to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods

The following supplies of polystyrene food or drink containers and cups are permitted:

-  where the food is not ready to be consumed and requires further preparation

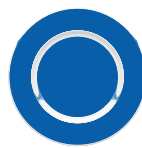
Do you know, we use:



4.7 billion plastic straws



2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery



721 million single-use plates



316 million plastic stirrers

But only 10% is recycled. Without considerable action to address plastic pollution, 50kg of plastic will enter the ocean for every metre of shoreline. The aim of this ban is to ensure this does not happen.

To help businesses understand what is required of them with this ban in place, Business Companion have released new guidance.

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