



Single-use plastics **BAN**

The ACT Government is banning additional plastic items in two stages

From 1 July 2023:

- ✗ single-use plastic plates and unlidded bowls
- ✗ expanded polystyrene loose fill packaging
- ✗ expanded polystyrene trays
- ✗ plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care and cleaning products.

From 1 January 2024:

- ✗ heavyweight and boutique plastic bags.

The following single-use plastic items are already banned in the ACT:

- ✗ single-use plastic cutlery and drink stirrers
- ✗ expanded polystyrene takeaway food and beverage containers
- ✗ single-use plastic straws (with exemptions for those who need them)
- ✗ lightweight plastic shopping bags
- ✗ cotton buds with plastic sticks
- ✗ all oxo-degradable plastics.

Who does the ban apply to?

The ban applies to anyone supplying banned products in the ACT including:

- individuals
- businesses
- institutions
- events
- markets
- community groups

Prepare for the ban

Existing stock:

Stop ordering banned items. Instead, do a stocktake and use any existing stock before 1 July 2023. You cannot use banned items after the ban date, even if purchased prior.

Order alternatives:

Ensure alternatives are compliant with the ACT legislation. Contact your suppliers to confirm. If you are unsure, contact the single-use plastic hotline on 1800 844 946.

Educate your team:

Tell your team about the items covered by the ban. Outline how you will comply to the ban.

Inform customers:

Help your community, customers or members understand the ban by displaying the single-use plastics ban poster.

Need some help?

Call the single-use plastic hotline on 1800 844 946 or email singleuseplastics@act.gov.au



Find out more
www.act.gov.au/single-use-plastics



Items banned from 1 July 2023



Single-use plastic plates and unidded bowls

The ban applies to single-use plastic plates and unidded bowls.

The ban does not apply to bowls designed or intended to have a spill-proof lid.

Exemptions:

- paper or cardboard plates and bowls that have a plastic lining or coating – exempt until 31 October 2024
- single-use plastic bowls in some medical, scientific or forensic circumstances.

Suitable alternatives include:

- reusable plates and bowls such as stainless steel or ceramic
- paper and cardboard or fibre-based alternatives.



Expanded polystyrene (EPS) loose fill packaging and trays

The ban applies to packing peanuts and trays made of EPS (used for perishable food in retail).

The ban does not apply to moulded EPS packaging used for the packaging and protection of electronics, white goods, furniture and other bulky items.

Suitable alternatives to EPS loose fill packaging include:

- smaller packaging to reduce empty space
- shredded paper and cardboard
- HDPE air pillows
- kraft paper
- moulded fibre-based alternatives.

Suitable alternatives to EPS trays include:

- paper and cardboard
- PET or polypropylene
- aluminium
- myco-composite and mycelium-based packaging.



Plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care and cleaning products

The ban applies to plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care and cleaning products.

An exemption applies for plastic microbeads used in medical, scientific or forensic circumstances.

Suitable alternatives include:

- products without microbeads
- products that use other exfoliants such as powders from seeds and nuts, salt or coffee grounds.

99% of products containing plastic microbeads have already been phased out.



Banned from 1 January 2024

Heavyweight and boutique plastic bags

The ban applies to all plastic shopping bags with handles, regardless of thickness. This includes bags made fully or partially of plastic, and bags made from plastic laminated paper or cardboard.

The ban does not apply to:

- bags without handles
- produce or barrier bags (such as those used for fruit, vegetables, meat)
- other forms of bags or pouches (such as waste bags, nappy bags, post satchels, bread bags)
- nylon, polyester or woven polypropylene shopping bags
- non-woven polypropylene bag with a minimum weight of 90g/m² with sewn seams.

Suitable alternatives include:

- reusable bags made of cotton, calico, jute, nylon, polyester, woven polypropylene
- single-use paper bags

Stop ordering bags that will be banned and use up existing stock before 1 January 2024.

**Where possible, consider whether the item needs to be supplied at all.
You could save money and the environment.**