# 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.

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

- X 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)
- X lightweight plastic shopping bags
- X 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.

From 1 January 2024:

plastic bags.

× heavyweight and boutique

#### **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 unlidded bowls

The ban <u>applies</u> to single-use plastic plates and unlidded bowls.

The ban <u>does not apply</u> 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 <u>applies</u> to packing peanuts and trays made of EPS (used for perishable food in retail).

The ban <u>does not apply</u> 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 myceliumbased packaging.



#### Plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care and cleaning products

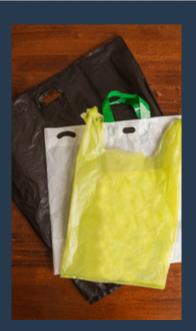
The ban <u>applies</u> to plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care and cleaning products.

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 <u>applies</u> 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/m<sup>2</sup> 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.