



Mining company supplies fully reusable crib kit to all site employees

The roll out of reusable crib kits has proven to be an achievable and manageable process in a situation where the mining company handles its catering operations in-house, including dry mess, wet mess and retail stores. A Western Australian company introduced a comprehensive 13-piece branded meal kit as part of a pilot program, ahead of a full roll out to all owner-operated sites. The kits were sourced from a supplier that sells all components and offers branded or unbranded options and could supply the items at a high quality to encourage greater uptake and ensure the kits are durable.



Company branded kits contain:

- 1.8 Litre stainless steel thermal water bottle (clips to crib bag, two lid types)
- stainless steel 420 mL coffee cup
- six-piece stainless steel cutlery set, including stainless straw and straw cleaner
- four-piece reusable microwave-safe food containers (3 x 1.1 Litre and 1 x 350 mL)
- canvas insulated crib bag

Ice bricks were not provided due to the availability of fridges in all crib rooms on site. Kits were provided for permanent staff, who were responsible for buying replacements for any lost or damaged items. Personal reusable kits were also acceptable to be brought from home. Short-term contractors or visitors were provided with single-use containers due to the duration of their stay but can also bring their own containers or purchase reusable items at the retail store on site.

The village services team assembled the kit components. Kit distribution was found to work best when managed by work area managers instead of village services teams to ensure that kits were given to the correct full-time employees.

Infrastructure

- Fridges - for crib containers in work areas
- Washing stations - in each work area as well as near crib rooms and dry mess
- Instant water heaters - hot water is essential
- The number of sinks/troughs determined by size of teams
- Dish detergent dispensers
- Dishwashing brushes - to allow the hygienic cleaning of containers
- Cleaning and restocking of washing infrastructure - incorporated into daily cleaning schedule
- Existing infrastructure that assisted the roll out:
 - cold drinking water dispensers
 - reverse osmosis (RO) water systems
 - ice machines
 - racks outside dry mess to store crib bags.





Cost savings

The purchase price of each crib kit was \$105, inclusive of company branding and bulk purchasing discounts. The cost savings from this initiative will cover the cost of the kits within approximately four months.

Roll out lead time and communications

The time required to roll out crib kits was eight weeks (absolute minimum of six weeks) assuming stock was available and infrastructure audits had been conducted. In this example, clear and consistent communications to permanent employees and contractors via multiple touchpoints (emails, posters, pre-start and return to work information, briefing notes), designed to target specific audiences, ensured a successful roll out and adoption of the crib kits.

Feedback and responses

The high quality of the kits has been a key factor that sets this company apart from its peers.

Overall, the roll out was positively received with additional favourable feedback from some contractors, who were highly engaged and supportive of the change, having experienced similar roll outs at other third-party sites.

Tips

- This mining company chose a comprehensive, high quality and robust branded crib kit that residents/personnel care for and take pride in.
- Install large, five-litre dishwashing detergent dispensers to reduce plastic waste and replenishment intervals.
- Choose an 'environmentally friendly' detergent to minimise potential environmental impacts and prevent disruptions to wastewater treatment systems that can be sensitive to chemicals and affect microbial bacteria responsible for breaking down septic and grey water.
- Change management process and roll out strategy is integral to obtaining leadership buy in and streamlined roll out.
- Ensure that existing buildings requiring instant hot water heaters are equipped with suitable electrical systems to handle the increased electrical load.

For more information on rolling out reusables in mining villages, visit the WA Government's Plan for Plastics webpage on the project [Reusable solutions for mine site catering | Western Australian Government](#).