



# Mine site adopts a mixed range of crib kits

A diverse range of reusable crib kits is accepted at some Western Australian mine sites. One site with about 300 workers provides a basic unbranded crib kit to full time personnel when they start with the company. They are also welcome to bring their own kits or meal containers. Contractors are expected to either bring a kit or buy items from the stock available at the store on site. Reusable crib kits were introduced on site more than two years ago. Since the initial transition, the sale of reusable travel keep cups or tumblers for coffee has been added to the program. Reusable water bottles are occasionally provided as gifts and most people bring their own water bottles.



## The unbranded kit contains:

- Insulated crib bag
- 450 mL soup mug with steam vent
- 625 mL rectangular container
- Two 900 mL rectangular containers with steam vent
- A three-piece metal cutlery set with fork, knife and spoon.

Metal coffee travel mugs (360 mL) with a plastic snap-on lid, metal keep cups (330 mL) and 900 mL plastic containers are sold in the on site store for \$8 to \$13. The dining hall has only reusable crockery and cutlery. Sauces are served from bulk dispenser bottles to eliminate single-use plastic sachets.

## Infrastructure

- Two hot-plumbed sinks with four taps at each sink outside dining hall
- Multiple crib rooms with sinks across the site

No tea towels are provided. Paper towel dispensers are in place and people often air dry their containers.

## Roll out lead time and communications

The crib kits were introduced when the village contractor started in 2022. The contract requires reusable containers to be included in the person day rate each year. Cardboard disposable containers remained available in lunch areas until April 2023. A site-wide notice was issued a week before their removal.

The lead up to removing disposable cups was one month. Posters, emails and flyers were used to communicate the change, along with the requirement for people to use reusable cups, before implementation in October 2023.

## Feedback and response

People look after their kits and losses are not common since they need to buy their own replacements. The company noted that a minority of people use cling wrap to avoid having to wash their crib containers and this is not a practical action. Single-use coffee cup usage is decreasing with the introduction of keep cups offered for sale on site. Single-use cups are restricted to only the shop and shutdown use.

## Tips

- Sell coffee keep cups and containers in an on-site retail shop or dining hall
- A small cupboard is useful to store lost items, although loss rates are low

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](#).