

Western Australia's

Plan for Plastics

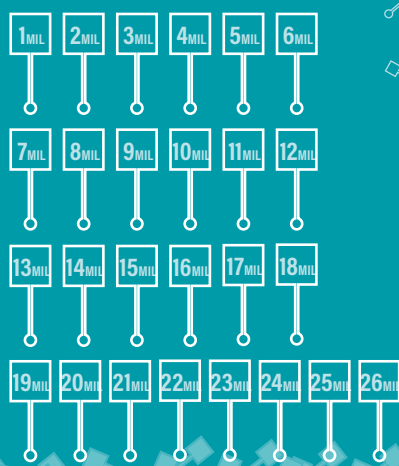
Single-use plastics ban Plastic drink stirrers

January 2022

From 1 January 2022, regulations to ban the sale, supply and distribution of single-use or disposable plastic drink stirrers in Western Australia come into effect.

Businesses, organisations and consumers who use these items are being supported to switch to reusable and non-plastic alternatives.

In the 2019–20 financial year, Western Australians used an estimated 27 MILLION drink stirrers.



Quick
fact

27MIL

► What is being banned?

The ban applies to the sale, supply or distribution of single-use or disposable plastic drink stirrers.

All single-use or disposable plastic drink stirrers, made wholly or partly of plastic, used for stirring hot and cold beverages are included in the ban, as well as drink stirrers made of 'compostable', 'biodegradable' and 'degradable' plastics. The ban applies to packets of single-use or disposable plastic drink stirrers sold by wholesalers and retailers, and plastic drink stirrers provided individually to consumers free of charge at places like cafes, bars and restaurants.

► Why are plastic drink stirrers being banned?

About 40 per cent of all plastics used are 'single-use', designed to be used only once or a few times before being thrown away (disposed of). While recyclable, only 11 per cent of single-use plastics are currently recycled, with the majority ending up as litter or in landfills.

In the environment plastic waste breaks down into smaller fragments over a long period of time, if at all. Plastic waste poses a major threat to the health of marine, freshwater and land ecosystems, and impacts the amenity of our environment and coastlines. The impact and abundance of single-use disposable plastic items is significant, and immediate action is required to reduce these impacts.





Did you know?

90%



90 per cent of the people surveyed in WA told us they support a ban on single-use plastic drink stirrers

► Who does the ban apply to?

The ban applies to all businesses, manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers and distributors in Western Australia. Community organisations and institutions may also be affected by the ban.

► Can I still use disposable plastic stirrers I have at home?

Yes, you can. The ban does not apply to the personal use of the items, only the sale, supply and distribution of them.



► What can I use instead?

There are many options to choose from that are both better for the environment, and prevent waste going to landfill. Choose to:

- Refuse – swish instead of stir, say ‘No’ to drink stirrers
- Reuse – opt for reusable drink stirrers made from stainless steel or glass.

If you simply can't refuse and reusable options are not available, then consider disposable drink stirrers made from non-plastic materials, such as sustainably sourced wood.

► When do penalties apply?

From **1 July 2022** penalties apply for the sale, supply or distribution of plastic drink stirrers that are banned under the Environmental Protection (Prohibited Plastics and Balloons) Regulations 2018.

Penalties also apply to any person who supplies or manufactures drink stirrers and knowingly provides false or misleading information about its composition or whether or not it is a banned plastic drink stirrer.

► Need more information?

Call the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation: 08 6364 7000

Email: plastic-action@dwer.wa.gov.au

Check out the website:
[Western Australia's Plan for Plastics](#) | [Western Australian Government](#)
(www.wa.gov.au)

