



# Catering firm supplies mine site crib kits

Mining companies can sign up an experienced catering firm to supply reusable meal kits to personnel. One WA mine site engaged a catering and facilities management company to coordinate the sourcing, quotes and supply of kits, supported by calculations revealing how quickly the cost would be recovered by savings on single-use containers. The on-site dining hall only provides reusable crockery and cutlery – and removing items is not permitted to prevent losses.



## The kit contains:

- Insulated crib bag
- 800 mL round salad container
- 500 mL rectangular hot food container
- 300 mL sandwich container
- Stainless steel, plastic-lined coffee keep cup with plastic snap-on lid, slider opening.

Ice bricks are not provided.

## Infrastructure

- Washing stations – modular stainless steel sinks with pull-out drain basket to prevent plumbing blockages. The washing stations are located close to the dining room for convenient access
- Hot water plumbed – planning and installation can take up to three months

## Cost savings

The cost of single-use items is included in catering quotes, so a rebate is expected when this no longer applies. Savings were provided 'per man day'. The time frame for the mining company to recover the cost of crib kits is about six to eight months. Reusable coffee keep cups were found to be the most expensive reusable item. Branding is offered if the mining company is prepared to pay the additional cost.

## Roll out lead time and communications

The time to roll out crib kits was seven months, with the caterer providing the mining company with quotes for kit costs as well as wash station sinks and plumbing. Educational and awareness signs about food safety were displayed in crib rooms. These covered hand washing, container washing, food temperature, cross contamination, insects and placement of crib bags.

## Feedback and responses

The catering company reports that 90 per cent of people routinely wash their crib containers and place them in their crib bags.

## Tips

- Limit container size to prevent food waste – the bigger the container the more food is dished
- Offer sandwich-sized containers to reduce plastic wrap use
- Costs of keep cups can be lowered by ordering from promotional companies
- Sell containers and keep cups in on site retail shops
- Contractors are charged approximately \$3.50 to \$4 per new container
- When providing dinner leftovers for lunch, offer the food in bain marie cold wells for people to dish into a crib container and microwave later, avoiding single-use containers.

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](#).