



MANUFACTURERS, WHOLESALERS  
AND DISTRIBUTORS

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**ALL YOU NEED TO  
KNOW ABOUT  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S  
SINGLE-USE PLASTIC  
PRODUCTS LEGISLATION  
- AND AVOIDING WASTE**

**REPLACE  
THE WASTE**

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Government of  
South Australia



# REPLACE THE WASTE

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# LEADING THE WAY WITH ACTION ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

## SINGLE-USE PLASTICS LEGISLATION EXPLAINED

On September 9, 2020, the South Australian Parliament passed the *Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020*. This legislation is the first of its kind in Australia and a positive step towards avoiding waste.

South Australia will lead the rest of the country with this action on single-use plastics.

### WHEN?

**From March 1, 2021**, single-use plastic straws, cutlery and stirrers will be prohibited from sale, supply or distribution in South Australia. These single-use items can be replaced with reusable and compostable alternatives. Exemptions will apply for single-use plastic straws.

**From March 1, 2022**, expanded polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clamshell containers will be prohibited from sale, supply or distribution in South Australia.

Oxo-degradable plastic products will also be prohibited from manufacture and production in the state.

Oxo-degradable plastic products contain additives that cause the plastic to break down into tiny fragments ('microplastic'), which does not completely decompose.

### WHY?

Plastics play an important role in our economy and daily lives. When used in packaging, plastics help ensure food safety and reduce food waste.

But too often, the way plastics are produced, used and discarded results in a wasted resource, causing pollution, litter and harm to wildlife, including marine life. South Australians are committed to the environment and want action on single-use plastic products.

**By avoiding waste and shifting to reusable or recyclable options we are ensuring the best environmental outcome for our 'clean and green' state.**

### WHAT?

The legislation prohibits the sale, supply or distribution of single-use plastic straws, beverage stirrers and cutlery. Single-use plastic products are designed to be used once, or for a limited number of times, often away from home, and thrown away after a brief use, usually resulting in waste.

### EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions allow for the sale, supply and distribution of single-use plastic straws for people with disability or health needs. Exemptions will also apply to pre-packaged and attached products such as straws attached to juice or milk boxes.

### COMPLIANCE

Compliance in South Australia will be enforced by the Environment Protection Authority.



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# PROHIBITED

## SINGLE-USE PLASTIC DRINKING STRAWS

Any straw made from, or comprising, fossil fuel derived plastic and/or compostable plastic which is designed to be used once, or a limited number of times, before being thrown away.

**Exemptions will apply for people who require single-use plastic straws due to a disability or health need. Exemptions will also apply to pre-packaged and attached products such as plastic straws attached to juice or milk boxes.**

**Fossil fuel derived plastic products include:**

e.g. Polypropylene (PP), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

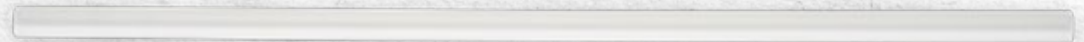
**Compostable (bioplastic) plastic includes:**

e.g. Polylactic Acid (PLA).

Bioplastics are not a suitable alternative for single-use straws, cutlery and stirrers. While compostable plastic products can break down in industrial composting facilities, they can cause litter, pollution and harm to wildlife, including marine life in the same way as conventional, fossil fuel plastic products when not composted.



Plastic straws with a scoop



Regular plastic straws



Flexible plastic straws



Regular and cocktail plastic straws



Bubble tea straws

Samples of single-use plastic drinking straws, which will be prohibited, are pictured above.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU](http://REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU) OR 1800 844 946**

# SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STIRRERS

Any stirrer made from, or comprising, fossil fuel derived plastic or compostable plastic which is designed to be used once, or a limited number of times, before being thrown away.



Plastic and compostable plastic (PLA) beverage stirrers



Plastic ice cream spoons

# SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CUTLERY

Any utensil that can be used to eat food. This includes spoons, forks, knives, sporks, splayds and chopsticks which are designed to be used once, or a limited number of times, before being thrown away. Exemptions will also apply to cutlery that is attached as part of a pre-packaged product e.g. a plastic spoon attached to a yoghurt tub.



Compostable plastic [PLA] cutlery

Plastic cutlery

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU](http://REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU) OR 1800 844 946

QUICK GUIDE TO PRODUCTS

# ALTERNATIVES



Reusable wooden cutlery



Reusable chopsticks



Reusable plastic cutlery



Metal cutlery



Glass straws



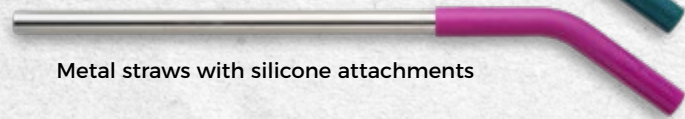
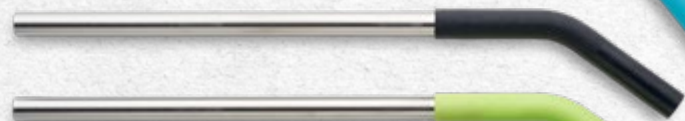
Bamboo straws



Metal straws



Silicone straws



Metal straws with silicone attachments



Bent metal straws

## REUSABLE

Does your business promote and sell reusable options? More and more products are being developed from reusable materials such as glass, silicone, bamboo, titanium, stainless steel, ceramics and robust reusable plastics. Do you stock reusable and cost-effective alternatives?



A sample of alternative reusable products is pictured

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU](http://REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU) OR 1800 844 946

## DISPOSABLE

If you are supplying disposable options ensure these are compostable.

Compostable products should not contain plastics.

**Compostable products should be placed in the green bin to enable effective composting at a commercial facility.**

Alternatives include straws made from certified paper, bamboo or by-products like sugarcane (be careful as some PLA is described as sugarcane). Cutlery and stirrers can be made from wood or bamboo.



Wheat straws



Paper straws



Disposable wooden cutlery



Disposable wooden chopsticks



A sample of alternative disposable items is pictured

# AVOID WASTE AND REDUCE COSTS

Businesses are being advised to reduce the cost of switching to non-plastic alternatives by reducing the quantity of the product being used. By reducing the use of unnecessary items provided to businesses, you will save money and avoid wasting resources.

## CUTLERY

- Place takeaway cutlery out of reach of customers.
- Only provide cutlery on request.

## STRAWS

- Place straws out of reach of customers, such as behind or under the counter.
- Train staff to provide straws only on request or for beverages that require straws.

## STIRRERS

- For dine in, use washable, reusable drink stirrers.
- For takeaway, consider if these are necessary. If they are, only provide on request.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU](http://REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU) OR 1800 844 946

# CRITICAL DATES

## PHASE 1 ACTIONS - MARCH 1, 2021

Prohibited: Single-use plastic straws (exemptions apply), stirrers and cutlery

## PHASE 2 ACTIONS - MARCH 1, 2022

Prohibited: Expanded polystyrene cups, plates, bowls and clamshell containers and oxo-degradable plastics

## PHASE 3 ACTIONS - DATE TO BE DETERMINED

Additional single-use and other plastic products will be prohibited at a date to be determined

# PREPARE NOW

Visit [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](https://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au) now to learn about the legislation and what it means for your business and South Australian customers. Encourage your colleagues, co-workers and staff to do the same.

## STEP 1: STOCKTAKE

Check your inventory of single-use plastic straws, cutlery and beverage stirrers to ensure you will be ready for the change starting in South Australia on March 1, 2021.

### Single-use plastic cutlery and beverage stirrers

- Stop producing and supplying single-use plastic cutlery and beverage stirrers now.
- Use up existing stock before March 1, 2021.

### Single-use plastic straws

- Stop supplying single-use plastic straws unless you have customers who intend to keep these for people with disability or health needs.
- Flexible single-use plastic straws are often used by people who need them due to disability or health needs.

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## STEP 2: STOCK ALTERNATIVES

- Supply alternatives as soon as possible.

Prepare yourself to answer customer queries about alternative products with details such as:

- Brand name, manufacturer and availability
- Product composition including glues and coatings (where applicable)
- Product or material specifications and claimed standards/certification
- Whether the product is re-usable, recyclable or compostable
- Wholesale and retail costs
- Safety e.g. if item is unsuitable for holding certain liquids or hot foods.

## STEP 3: EXCESS STOCK OPTIONS

Don't stockpile unused products for a rainy day unless you supply interstate customers or choose to retain single-use straws for customers servicing people with disability or health needs. Here are some options to avoid sending single-use plastic items to landfill:

### RECYCLE

Enquire if excess stock can be recycled – this depends on the type of plastic and if it has a use. Contact these companies (fees may apply):

YCA Recycling  
Wingfield, Adelaide  
Phone: 1300 503 882  
[www.ycarecycling.com](http://www.ycarecycling.com)

Recycling Plastics Australia  
Kilburn, Adelaide  
Phone: 08 8359 1111  
[www.rpau.com.au/contact](http://www.rpau.com.au/contact)

### REUSE

If plastic drinking straws are in the original unopened packaging these straws may be able to be donated for use by those with disability or health needs under the exemption.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU](http://REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU) OR 1800 844 946**

## STEP 4: PREPARE FOR DISPOSAL

- Correct disposal of compostable items may mean changing your waste management and recycling systems and practices, so prepare now.

## STEP 5: EDUCATE YOUR STAFF

- Tell staff about the new legislation and how your business is going to replace the waste.
- Train staff to communicate the change to your customers.
- See the Talking Points at [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](https://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au).

## STEP 6: INFORM YOUR CUSTOMERS

- Display supplied Point of Sale materials available at [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](https://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au) – download and print or order printed copies free of charge.
- Help your customers to transition by communicating the change early.
- Tell your customers if you will continue to supply single-use plastic straws for those who need these for disability and health needs.
- See the Talking Points at [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](https://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au).



Posters and other Point of Sale resources are available from [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](https://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au)

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# TIPS FOR HANDLING CUSTOMER ENQUIRIES

## HOW CAN WE HELP OUR STAFF EXPLAIN THE CHANGE?

Some customers may be unhappy with the changes needed to replace the waste. Changes to behaviour can take time. To help your staff:

- Remind customers the changes have been introduced by the South Australian Government and are being applied to all businesses in the state.
- Explain that the changes are helping to protect the environment by avoiding waste and reducing litter and harm to wildlife, including marine life.
- Refer customers to [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](http://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au) or the 1800 844 946 helpline.



Contact cards can be ordered from [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](http://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au)

# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## HOW WILL THE LEGISLATION BE ENFORCED?

Enforcement of the legislation will be undertaken by the Environment Protection Authority under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I SUPPLY A PROHIBITED ITEM TO A BUSINESS?

It is an offence for a manufacturer or distributor to knowingly mislead a business into believing that a product is not a prohibited product. If the business can prove that it believed on reasonable grounds that the product was not a prohibited single-use plastic product, it will not be held liable.

## WHAT IF I AM UNSURE IF MY PRODUCT IS PROHIBITED?

A state government education campaign is helping business, industry and the community understand the legislation and encouraging people to avoid waste and use alternative products. You can check the descriptions of prohibited products at [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](http://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au). If you are still unsure call the 1800 844 946 helpline.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU](http://REPLACETHEWASTE.SA.GOV.AU) OR 1800 844 946

**DO YOU WANT  
TO KNOW MORE?**

**FEEDBACK AND INFORMATION**

Website [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au](http://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au) - 24 hours

FAQs [replacethewaste.sa.gov.au/single-use-plastic-faqs](http://replacethewaste.sa.gov.au/single-use-plastic-faqs) - 24 hours

Email [sup@sa.gov.au](mailto:sup@sa.gov.au) - business hours

Helpline **1800 844 946** - business hours

Facebook [facebook.com/replacethewaste](https://facebook.com/replacethewaste) - business hours

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