



catering supplies

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



FACTSHEET JUNE 2023

Government announces far-reaching ban on single-use plastics in England

ENGLAND
2023

What and when?

From 1 October 2023, businesses must no longer supply, sell or offer certain single-use plastic items in England

The ban will include single-use plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and expanded polystyrene food and drinks containers.

From October, these items will be unavailable from any businesses, including retailers, takeaways, food vendors and the hospitality industry.



Exemptions:

The ban will not apply to single-use plastic plates, bowls and trays if either of the following apply:

- You are supplying them to another business
- The items are used as packaging (pre-filled or filled at the point of sale)

Examples of this type of packaging include:

- A pre-filled salad bowl or ready meal packaged in a tray
- A plate filled at the counter of a takeaway
- A tray used to deliver food



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Environmental impact:

Previous restrictions on straws, stirrers and cotton buds, have reduced the damage from these plastics.

Before the Government banned these products, it was estimated straws, stirrers and cotton buds collectively contributed to around 5.7% of marine litter. After the ban, the Great British Beach Clean 2021 reported cotton bud sticks had moved out of the UK's top ten most common beach litter items.



Suitable alternatives:

Bunzl Catering Supplies is working with our hospitality industry customers to identify items affected by the ban, implementing suitable, alternative product solutions in time for the October ban.

Our Sustainable Future Footprint Tool has allowed us to work pro-actively with our customers, helping them adopt sustainable product options ahead of planned Government legislation.