



HONG KONG PLASTICS GUIDE



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Every year, humans produce over 430 million tonnes of plastic, around two-thirds of which we only use briefly before chucking it in the bin. These single-use items are part of our everyday lives, from food wrappers and bottles to bags, cups and straws. Yet while these items may be throw-away, their impact on the environment is anything but.

Most plastics are made from fossil fuels, using energy derived from fossil fuels. This contributes to global heating. Indeed, today plastic production and disposal accounts for 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

But that's not all. Each year, 19-23 million tonnes of plastic waste end up in our oceans, lakes and rivers. This damages our ecosystems, poisoning plants and animals, and makes its way into our food and bodies in the form of microplastic particles.



11,000 TONNES OF WASTE ARE SENT TO LANDFILL IN HONG KONG EVERY DAY. 21% OF THIS IS PLASTIC.

Studies show that, contrary to popular belief, recycling is not a viable long-term solution as plastic is in fact extremely difficult, expensive and energy-intensive to recycle. If we are to tackle the problem, then we must focus on reduction and eliminate single-use plastic for good.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO YOU?

Today, we're seeing a flood of laws, agreements and initiatives spring up across the world to tackle plastic pollution. Hong Kong is the latest to join this trend, with a new ban on single-use plastic items that comes into effect on April 22nd, 2024. Phase two of the ban is set for 2025, with roll-out depending on the availability and affordability of the relevant non-plastic or reusable alternatives.

While the new ban on single-use plastics marks a major step towards a more environmentally conscious future for Hong Kong, many hospitality businesses are scrambling to comply with its requirements in time. Plastic plays a huge role in foodservice and, as a result, tackling plastic use can be confusing and daunting. However, by embracing reuse and switching to plastic-free options, businesses often find that they see reduced costs.

THROUGH THIS GUIDE, WE AIM TO GIVE YOU A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THE NEW BAN MEANS FOR YOU AND HOW TO TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE SINGLE-USE ITEMS IN YOUR BUSINESS.

THE NEW BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS

WHAT THE BAN COVERS

Restaurants



Polystyrene, Styrofoam and plastic tableware for dine-in customers



Plastic containers
Phase 1: for sit-down meals
Phase 2: for takeaway meals

Hotels & guesthouses



Plastic-bottled water provided in hotel rooms



Toiletries:
Single use items or products disposable plastic containers



Additional plastic items:
Phase 1: Balloon sticks, umbrella bags, glow sticks
Phase 2: Including tablecloths, transparent gloves, plastic covered dental floss and earplugs

Please note that people with disabilities, such as strength and mobility issues, may need a plastic straw to be able to safely eat or drink. The Hong Kong government has confirmed that businesses are allowed to provide plastic straws to customers with special medical needs.

WHAT THE PENALTIES ARE

This law applies to businesses serving single use items. It does not apply to members of the public.

A fixed penalty system will be put in place to regulate the ban. Law enforcement officers will be able to issue \$HK2000 penalty tickets to retailers and foodservice outlets and to those managing them. Businesses found to be in breach of the ban may be subject to a fine of up to HK\$100,000.

WHAT ARE OTHER PLACES DOING?

Many countries across the world have taken steps in recent years to ban single-use plastic items, from the UK and European Union to China and the USA. In the Hong Kong region, similar bans look like this:



Mainland China has recently phased out single-use plastic products. These include non-biodegradable disposable plastic tableware, making and selling expanded polystyrene products (such as takeaway food containers) and plastic cotton buds.



In 2021, Macau banned the import of polystyrene products and disposable utensils, including straws and cutlery.



Taiwan outlawed the use of single-use plastic straws and tableware in 2002 for retail outlets, foodservice, schools and government departments. They are now considering a full ban on single-use plastics by 2030.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



MEASURE

→ Measure your plastic waste output and identify which items you use the most! Do this by segregating your plastic waste and weighing your bins each day over a seven-day period.



MAKE A PLAN

→ Decide what actions you'll take to eliminate the plastic items covered by the ban and outline who is responsible for which action point. Focus first on tackling the items you use the most.

→ To prepare for future extensions to the ban and to save you time and money in the long run, try to reduce and recycle plastic items not yet covered by the ban as well. To do this, set clear, measurable reduction and recycling targets (including how much and by what date). Focus on reduction over recycling and start by tackling your most-wasted items first.



EMPOWER YOUR STAFF

- Share your plan with your staff.
- Train staff on ways to reduce and recycle plastic waste.
- Put up signs about how to reduce and recycle properly.
- Offer incentives for achieving your reduction goals within the agreed timeframe to keep your team motivated and engaged.



REDUCE AND REPLACE

Favour reduction first.

- The best way to reduce plastic waste is to ask yourself if you actually need to use the product in the first place. If not, don't use it!
- Get rid of plastic water bottles by only serving tap or filtered water.
- Encourage diners to bring their own coffee cups, water bottles, containers and cutlery for takeaway meals, offering them a small discount or loyalty points for doing so.

Replace the items you can't do without with reusable alternatives.

- Tableware: replace single-use plates with ceramic/metal ones and use metal straws, cutlery and stirrers.
- In the kitchen: replace plastic wrap, disposable dishcloths and plastic containers with reusable dishcloths and Tupperware.
- Supplier packaging: buy items in bulk and switch to refills wherever possible.
- Work with suppliers to get products delivered in reusable/recyclable packaging.

If you can't source reusable items, use recyclable products or products made with renewable/recycled materials.

For suggestions of plastic alternatives, check out www.greentableware.hk/en-us/Home/PCBList



LET YOUR CUSTOMERS KNOW!

Communicate with your customers about what you're doing to fight plastic waste and why it's important. This will help your brand image and encourage them to support you in your efforts.

WANT TO GO FURTHER?

Sign up to the [Food Made Good Standard](#), the accreditation designed to help you measure the sustainable impact of your restaurant and take practical action.



WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

The top priority in fighting plastic waste is to focus on reducing the amount of single-use items you use in the first place, and then replacing the ones you can't avoid with reusable alternatives.

However, we understand that it may not be possible to completely eliminate single-use products from your operations. Where this is the case, it's important to understand the materials you're choosing, and where they'll end up once you've thrown them away.

THE BEST CHOICE IS:

BUT IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, THEN:



Reusable cutlery & stirrers, e.g., metal.
Encourage customers to bring their own.

Wooden, biodegradable or compostable cutlery & stirrers.



Reusable plates & bowls, e.g., metal or ceramic.
Encourage customers to bring their own.

Paper plates (ideally recycled or FSC).



Water filtered (and carbonated, for fizzy) on-site.
Reusable bottles/drinks containers, e.g., glass.
Bulk-order drinks, e.g., in kegs.

Aluminium cans or recycled plastic bottles.



Reusable straws, e.g., metal or glass.

Paper straws (ideally recycled or FSC).
Edible straws, e.g., pasta.
Biodegradable or compostable straws.



Reusable cups, e.g., metal, ceramic or bio-plastic.
Encourage customers to bring their own.

Paper cups & lids.
Biodegradable or compostable cups & lids.



Reusable containers, e.g., metal, glass or bio-plastic.
Encourage customers to bring their own.

Paper/card containers.

WHAT GOES WHERE?



Disposing of single-use items correctly is an important way of minimising their impact on the environment. It can be confusing, however, to know what goes where; choose the wrong bin and you risk contaminating the whole lot and sending it to landfill!

WHAT IS IT?

Conventional plastics (PET & RPET)

These are plastics made from fossil raw material (oil). PET is made from oil, and RPET is made from recycled PET. These are the focus of the Hong Kong ban.

Bio-based plastics (including PLA)

These are plastics made in part or fully from biological raw materials, such as corn starch or sugarcane (as is the case with PLA), vegetable fats or oils. Not all bioplastics are biodegradable, nor biodegrade more readily than fossil-based plastics. For this reason, we do not recommend these as an alternative to conventional plastics.

Biodegradable plastics

Plastics produced from either bio-based or fossil-based raw material that are designed to be broken down by bacteria or other microorganisms and disappear back into the environment.

Compostable plastics

Plastics capable of degrading into a compost under specific conditions. Some materials can only be composted in an industrial composting plant, while others are designed to be compostable at home, using lower temperatures than an industrial composter.

Wood, bamboo & bagasse (sugarcane pulp)

Paper and card

Disposal choices for paper, particularly packaging, depends on if it is “heavily contaminated” – that is, has a lot of leftover food on it – or not.

Glass

WHAT BIN DOES IT GO IN?



If non-biodegradable

If biodegradable



Industrial or home composting, depending on the material and local composting rules. For example, PLAs will have to be industrially composted, and some facilities do not accept resin-treated wood. Check the product specifications and your local recycling rules for more information about which option to choose.

If labelled as compostable



Dry mixed recycling if not contaminated, otherwise put it in general waste



Glass recycling

香港塑膠指南




塑膠問題知多少？

人類每年生產超過4.3億噸塑膠，其中約三分之二的塑膠產品被短暫使用後便遭廢棄。這些即棄塑膠用品與我們日常生活息息相關，例如保鮮紙、膠樽、膠袋、膠杯及膠飲管。然而，丟棄這些塑膠產品對環境構成的影響卻不容忽視。

大部份塑膠由化石燃料煉製而成，其生產過程中會排放溫室氣體，導致全球暖化。事實上，現時與生產及棄置塑膠相關的溫室氣體排放佔全球排放總量的3.4%。

除此之外，每年有1,900至2,300萬噸塑膠垃圾流入海洋、湖泊和河流。這些垃圾會破壞生態系統，毒害動植物，並以塑膠微粒的形式進入食物和人體。

 現時香港每日有11,000噸垃圾棄於堆填區，其中21%是塑膠。

我們普遍以為回收是可行的長遠解決方案，研究結果顯示事實卻非如此。回收塑膠實際上是非常困難、昂貴及耗費能源。要解決這個問題，我們必須著力減少使用並永久淘汰即棄塑膠產品。

塑膠管制對餐飲業有何影響？

今時今日，世界各地湧現各項法律條例、協議和倡議行動，以應對塑膠污染問題。香港最近亦加入大隊實行減塑，於2024年4月22日起實施管制即棄塑膠產品。第二階段管制計劃於2025年推行，具體日期則取決於非塑膠或可重用替代品的普及性和可負擔性。

雖然管制即棄塑膠產品的新措施標誌著香港為邁向綠色未來踏出一大步，但許多餐飲服務從業者現正爭相趕緊在管制生效前做好相應準備。塑膠在餐飲業中扮演著密不可分的角色，因此，塑膠管制可能會令人感到困惑，為之卻步。而事實上，重用塑膠及改用非塑膠產品可以降低成本。

這份指南將說明有關新管制措施為餐飲服務業帶來的影響，以及減少、重用和回收即棄產品的方法。

管制即棄塑膠

規管範圍

餐飲處所



禁止向堂食顧客提供發泡膠及塑膠餐具



塑膠食物容器
第一階段：禁止向堂食顧客提供
第二階段：禁止向外賣顧客提供

酒店及賓館



禁止在房間內供應即棄膠樽裝水



洗漱梳妝用品：
禁止供應即棄用品或載於即棄塑膠容器的用品



其他被禁塑膠產品：
第一階段：氣球棒、雨傘袋、熒光棒
第二階段：枱布、透明即棄膠手套、牙線棒及耳塞

請注意，殘疾人士（如殘弱及行動不便者）或需使用膠飲管才能安全進食或飲用飲料。香港特區政府經已確認，准許業界向有特殊醫療需求的顧客提供膠飲管。

違法罰則

有關條例只適用於提供即棄產品的企業，並不適用於普羅大眾。

條例將設立定額罰款制度，執法人員有權向零售商、餐飲處所及其管理者發出港幣2,000元定額罰款通知書，違法企業最高可被罰款港幣100,000元。

其他地方塑膠管制情況

近年，各國紛紛採取措施管制即棄塑膠產品，包括英國、歐盟、中國及美國。在香港附近的地區，類似的管制措施情況如下：



中國大陸最近逐步淘汰即棄塑膠產品，包括不可生物降解的即棄塑膠餐具，生產及銷售發泡膠產品如外賣食物容器，以及膠柄棉花棒。



澳門於2021年起禁止進口發泡膠產品和即棄用具，包括飲管和餐具。



台灣於2002年起禁止零售商、餐飲處所、學校和政府部門使用即棄膠飲管和塑膠餐具，並正考慮於2030年全面禁用即棄塑膠產品。

減塑行動



量度塑膠垃圾量

→ 將塑膠垃圾分類，連續七日磅重垃圾，識別出最常用的塑膠物品。



制定行動計劃

→ 訂立棄用管制條例所涵蓋的塑膠物品行動方案，明確列明有關負責人及具體行動內容，從最常用的塑膠物品入手。

→ 為應對未來塑膠管制範圍擴大做好準備功夫，長遠節省時間和成本，嘗試減少使用和回收暫未受監管的塑膠產品。訂立清晰、量化的減量和回收目標（包括目標數量和日期）。集中優先減用而非回收即棄塑膠產品，從廢棄量最多的產品開始。



激勵員工

- 與員工分享減塑計劃詳情。
- 為員工提供減少和回收塑膠垃圾的相關培訓。
- 張貼減少和回收塑膠正確方法的標示。
- 提供獎勵，鼓勵員工於指定目標日期內實現減塑目標，積極參與行動。



減少和替代使用

以減少使用塑膠產品為先。

- 減少塑膠垃圾的最佳方法就是問問自己，是否真的需要使用塑膠產品？假如不是，就不要使用有關產品！
- 提供自來水或過濾水，減少即棄膠樽裝水。
- 鼓勵外賣食客自備咖啡杯、水樽、容器及餐具，為他們提供小額折扣或積分以作獎勵。

以可重用的替代品取代必需的塑膠產品。

- 餐具：用陶瓷／金屬碟代替即棄膠碟，使用金屬飲管、餐具和攪拌棒。
- 廚房用品：以可重用的抹布和塑膠容器代替即棄抹布和保鮮紙。
- 供應商包裝：批量購買貨品，並盡可能改用補充裝。
- 與供應商磋商，以可重用或回收的物料包裝貨品。

假如無法找到可重用的物品替代，請使用可回收或以可再生／回收物料製成的產品。

如欲了解塑膠替代品的相關建議，請瀏覽 www.greentableware.hk/en-us/Home/PCBList



告知顧客

與顧客溝通交流，讓他們了解相關減塑行動及其重要性。這將有助提升企業品牌形象，從而鼓勵顧客共同為環保出一分力。

想為環保做得更多、走得更遠？

申請加入 **Food Made Good 規範準則**，有關認證協助餐飲業界衡量企業對環境所構成的影響，並採取實際行動實現可持續發展。

有甚麼替代品？

對抗塑膠垃圾的首要任務是著力減少使用即棄物品，繼而以可重用的替代品取代必需的塑膠產品。

我們明白在日常營運中，企業可能無法完全停用即棄塑膠產品。在這種情況下，企業需留意塑膠產品的原料成份，以及它們遭廢棄後會被如何處置。

首選：

如左列不適用，可選用：



可重用的餐具和攪拌棒，例如金屬。
鼓勵顧客自備餐具。

木製、可生物降解或可堆肥的餐具和攪拌棒。



可重用的碗碟，例如金屬或陶瓷。
鼓勵顧客自備碗碟餐具。

紙碟（經回收再造或森林管理委員會認證最為理想）。



即場過濾水及帶有碳酸氣泡的有氣水。
可重用的水樽或飲料容器，例如玻璃。
批量訂購飲品，例如桶裝飲品。

鋁罐或經回收再造的膠樽。



可重用的飲管，例如金屬或玻璃。

紙飲管（經回收再造或森林管理委員會認證最為理想）。
可食用飲管，例如意粉。
可生物降解或可堆肥的飲管。



可重用的杯，例如金屬、陶瓷或生物塑膠。
鼓勵顧客自備環保杯。

紙杯和蓋。
可生物降解或可堆肥的杯和蓋。



可重用的容器，例如金屬、玻璃或生物塑膠。
鼓勵顧客自備餐盒。

紙／卡紙製容器。

如何分門別類？



正確處理即棄塑膠產品是減少其對環境影響的重要一環。然而，要如何將它們分門別類處理往往或令人為之困惑。假如處理不當，可能會殃及整批廢棄物，令它們全部被送往堆填區棄置！

塑膠類別

傳統塑膠（聚脂纖維塑膠（**PET**）和再生聚脂纖維塑膠（**RPET**））由化石原料（石油）製成的塑膠；PET是由石油製成，而RPET則是由再生PET製成。這兩類塑膠材料受香港重點規管。

生物基塑膠（包括聚乳酸（**PLA**））全部或部份由生物原料製成，如玉米澱粉或甘蔗（PLA屬此情況）、植物脂肪或油。並非所有生物基塑膠都是可生物降解，而它們亦不比化石基塑膠更易被生物降解。故此，我們不建議將其作為傳統塑膠的替代品。

可生物降解塑膠
由生物基或化石基原料製成，可被細菌或其他微生物完全分解。

可堆肥塑膠
在特定條件下可被分解成混合肥料。某些材料只能在工業堆肥廠進行堆肥，而其他則可在家中堆肥，過程中所需的溫度較工業堆肥低。

木材、竹和蔗渣（甘蔗漿）

紙和卡紙
紙張（尤其是包裝紙）的處理方法取決於它有否被「嚴重沾污」，即沾染了很多食物殘渣。

玻璃

塑膠垃圾何去何從？



可生物降解



標記為可堆肥



根據不同材料和本地堆肥規例，進行工業堆肥或家庭堆肥。舉個例子，PLA必須進行工業堆肥，某些工場則不接受經樹脂處理的木材。

請細閱產品規格和當地回收規例，以了解更多有關堆肥選項的資訊。



如果未被沾污，可放入乾爽的混合回收桶進行回收；否則棄於一般垃圾桶。



玻璃回收