



RETAILER TOOLKIT

SINGLE USE PLASTICS



This guide is for any **business selling** either to other businesses or directly to consumers - including **distributors, wholesalers, foodservice, hospitality,** and **retailers** selling **online** or through **shops**.

WHAT ARE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS?

Single-use plastics (SUPs) are plastic items designed to be **used once or for a short period before being discarded.**

Because SUPs are difficult to recycle and frequently end up as litter, the EU introduced legislation to reduce their production and environmental impact.

Certain SUP items are **now banned from being placed on the Irish market.**

For retailers, this means

- These products should not be stocked
- They should not be ordered from suppliers
- They should not appear in supplier catalogues
- Sustainable alternatives should be used
- Durable plastic cutlery is allowed solely where it is placed on the market for repeated use, not single use, and is typically used as such by consumers. Items marked 'reusable' do not necessarily meet these conditions

The following ten single-use products must **NOT be placed on the market in Ireland.**

- Plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons)
- Plastic chopsticks
- Plastic plates
- Plastic straws
- Plastic drink stirrers
- Plastic balloon sticks / rods
- Plastic cotton bud sticks
- Expanded polystyrene drinks containers*
- Expanded polystyrene food containers
- Oxo-degradable plastic products**

* Expanded polystyrene is commonly known as **foam or "Styrofoam" takeaway containers.**

** Oxo-degradable plastics are conventional plastics containing additives that cause them to **break into microplastics rather than biodegrade.**

ACTION CHECK

I understand what single-use plastics are and which SUP products are banned under EU legislation.

YES NO

CHECKING YOUR INVENTORY CHECK

SUGGESTED SEARCH TERMS



Plastic cutlery

"Plastic", "fork", "spoon", "knife", "cutlery", "disposable"



Chopsticks

Plastic, chopsticks, quick sticks,
Foreign versions may feature depending on root of supplier like: kuaizi (China),
hashi or ohashi (Japan), jeotgarak (Korea), and đũa (Vietnam)



Plastic plates

Plastic, plate, disposable



Balloon rods

Plastic, balloon, rod, stick, support



Cotton bud sticks

Plastic, cotton bud, stick, cotton swab, q-tips,



Straws

Plastic, straw, drinking straw



Drink stirrers

coffee stirrer, drink stirrer



Expanded polystyrene food containers

polystyrene container, EPS container, foam container, styrofoam, food container



Expanded polystyrene drink containers

polystyrene container, EPS container, foam container, foam cup, styrofoam,
drinking cup



Oxo-degradable products

oxo-degradable, oxodegradable, oxo-biodegradable

ACTION CHECK

I have searched our inventory system using relevant product search terms. YES NO

I found no examples of banned SUP products. YES NO

I found the following examples products requiring review:

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-
-
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-
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SUPPLIER AND CATALOGUE CHECK

Retailers should also **review procurement systems and supplier catalogues.**

Products may still appear in:

- Supplier Ordering Systems
- Product Databases
- Procurement Lists
- Older Catalogues

CATALOGUE COMPLIANCE CHECKS

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **plastic cutlery** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **plastic chopsticks** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **plastic plates** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **plastic straws** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **plastic drink stirrers** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **plastic cotton buds** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **plastic balloon rods** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **expanded polystyrene food containers** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **expanded polystyrene drink containers** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

YES **NO** I have checked our catalogues for **oxo-degradable plastic products** and confirmed they do not feature/do feature and require updating.

SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES

Retailers should replace banned items with **reusable, recyclable, or organic-based alternatives.**

Examples

Plastic cutlery ———> Wooden cutlery or reusable metal cutlery

Plastic plates ———> Reusable plates or fibre plates

Plastic straws ———> Paper straws or reusable metal/silicone straws

Drink stirrers ———> Wooden stirrers

Balloon sticks ———> Paper sticks or reusable holders

Cotton bud sticks ———> Paper stick cotton buds

Plastic chopsticks ———> Wooden chopsticks or reusable chopsticks

EPS drink containers ———> Reusable cups or fibre cups

EPS food containers ———> Fibre takeaway boxes

Oxo-degradable plastics ———> Reusable, recyclable or certified compostable alternatives

Important purchasing tip

Avoid products with vague descriptions such as:

- Eco-Plastic
- Degradable Plastic
- Environmentally Friendly Plastic

Always confirm **material composition with suppliers.**

ACTION CHECK

I have identified compliant alternatives for any banned products previously stocked.

YES NO

FINAL COMPLIANCE CONFIRMATION

Use this checklist to confirm your business has reviewed compliance.

YES **NO** Banned single-use plastic items are not stocked in our store.

YES **NO** Banned SUP items do not appear in purchasing or inventory systems.

YES **NO** Supplier catalogues and procurement lists have been checked.

YES **NO** Where necessary, compliant alternatives have been sourced.

YES **NO** Relevant suppliers have been advised that we do not wish to be offered Single Use Plastics.

Business Name

Completed by

Role

Date