

# Single-use plastic

Plastic is designed to last forever, yet we often use plastic for a few minutes and then throw it away.



It is estimated that eight million tonnes of plastic enters our oceans every year, where it can entangle marine animals or be ingested by wildlife.



Through the State Government's Plan for Plastics, 19 single-use plastic items have now been banned.

For more information about the WasteSorted Schools program visit [www.wastesortedschools.wa.gov.au](http://www.wastesortedschools.wa.gov.au)

## What is single-use plastic?

Single-use plastic is basically anything that is intended only to be used once and then be discarded.

## What can you do to reduce single-use plastic?

Every day we encounter single-use plastic including drink bottles, unnecessary or excessive food packaging and prepackaged take away food containers. We can all take steps to reduce our use of single-use plastic by making simple 'swaps':

SWAP THIS	FOR THIS
✗ Disposable fruit and vegetable bags	✓ Reusable cloth or mesh bags
✗ Cling wrap and snap lock bags	✓ Reusable sandwich containers or sandwich wraps
✗ Plastic drink bottles	✓ Reusable drink bottles
✗ Disposable coffee cups	✓ Reusable coffee cups
✗ Straws	✓ Just say no thanks
✗ Over-packaged food items	✓ Visit a bulk food store and bring your own bags and containers



For more ideas on how to avoid single-use plastic visit the [WasteSorted WA website](http://WasteSorted WA website).





## What can your school do to reduce single-use plastic?

There are a lot of ways your school can get involved in reducing plastic, such as:

- Run regular waste-free lunch days. WasteSorted Schools has a [toolkit](#) to help.
- Encourage students and the wider school community to 'swap' plastic for reusable alternatives.
- Conduct lessons on single-use plastic using WasteSorted [curriculum guides](#).
- Encourage your school canteen to reduce their single use plastic by buying in bulk or providing reusable containers. For more ideas check out our [Green Canteen](#) fact sheet.
- Run a [Plastic Free Challenge](#) at school.

“Think about it... why would you make something that you are going to use for a few minutes out of a material that’s basically going to last forever. What’s up with that?”

*Jeb Berrier, BagIt movie.*

## Resources

### Primary school: [Plastic Free curriculum guide](#)

This guide includes activities to reduce plastic and is divided into three sections: Foundation to Year 2; Year 3 to Year 6; and a school leadership package.

### Secondary school: [Message in a plastic bottle](#)

This guide encourages students to question their understanding and assumptions about bottled water. It includes activities for English, maths, science, geography and student leaders. It is designed to encourage collaboration between learning areas.

### [Waste-free lunch toolkit](#)

This toolkit provides useful resources and ideas to help you run a waste-free lunch at your school.



**For more ideas on what schools can do to reduce plastic, visit the [Plastic Free July website](#).**

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