



Big Five problem plastics, and ideas for how your business can reduce or avoid them.

Coffee or milkshake cups

Avoid: plastic lined or standard coffee cups

Good: use 100% compostable and biodegradable cups, like BioCup or PLA cups

Better: ask customers if their coffee can go 'topless' (lid free)

Best: accept and offer an incentive for customers to bring their own reusable cups

We already do this	We could do this

Plastic bags

Avoid: any kind of plastic bags

Good: always ask 'do you need a bag?' instead of automatically offering one

Better: only provide paper bags, recycled boxes, reusable bags, Boomerang Bags

Best: offer an incentive for customers to bring their own bags, or do not use bags at all

We already do this	We could do this

Straws

Avoid: plastic straws

Good: provide paper, bamboo, or reusable straws only (not plastic)

Better: offer reusable straws (such as stainless steel) for sale for dine-in or borrow/return

Best: keep paper or reusable straws out of view and only provide when customers ask

We already do this	We could do this

Plastic cutlery

Avoid: disposable plastic cutlery

Good: always ask 'do you need cutlery or will you use your own at home?' for takeaway

Better: only provide compostable cutlery, such as BioPak, bamboo or wood

Best: offer an incentive for customers to bring their own cutlery, or a borrow/return option

We already do this	We could do this

Takeaway containers

Avoid: plastic takeaway containers

Good: use only 100% biodegradable & compostable containers, such as BioBoard or BioPak

Better: allow customers to use their own containers for takeaway

Best: offer incentive for customers to bring reusable containers, or a borrow/return option

We already do this	We could do this

Brainstorm more ideas with your staff.
They know your business,
and could have a great idea with a big impact.

Price comparisons for environmentally sustainable packaging options

Here are sample costs of some environmentally sustainable packaging options and their plastic counterparts. All prices are GST inclusive and sourced through local suppliers.

Prices were correct at the time of printing and can be subject to change, which can include cheaper options as new products become available.

Containers

	Foam	Cardboard	100% biodegradable and compostable
Standard burger	8c each (\$40 per 500)	16c each (\$80 per 500)	22.6c each (\$113 per 500)
Large burger	8.5c each (\$42 per 500)	23c each (\$115 per 500)	
Hot dog box	16c each (\$80 per 500)	21c each (\$105 per 500)	
Dinner box	25c each (\$125 per 500)	28c each (\$140 per 500)	

Straws

	Plastic	Paper	Bamboo
Standard	0.003c each (\$0.75 per 250)	0.035c each (\$8.75 per 250)	0.044c each (\$11 per 250)

Coffee cups

	Standard (recyclable)	100% biodegradable and compostable
8oz single wall	8c each (\$80 per 1000)	9c each (\$90 per 1000)
8oz double wall	13c each (\$130 per 1000)	20c each (\$200 per 1000)
12oz single wall	10.5c each (\$105 per 1000)	10.5c each (\$105 per 1000)
12oz double wall	16c each (\$160 per 1000)	24c each (\$240 per 1000)
Lids	4c each (\$40 per 1000)	8c each (\$80 per 1000)

Cutlery

	Plastic	Wooden	100% biodegradable and compostable
Teaspoon	1.5c each (\$15 per 1000)	4c each (\$40 per 1000)	Knife, fork, spoon set:
Spoon	2c each (\$17.15 per 1000)	7c each (\$40 per 1000)	9c per set (\$4.50 per 50, or \$85 per 1000)
Fork	2c each (\$17.15 per 1000)	7c each (\$40 per 1000)	
Knife	2c each (\$17.15 per 1000)	5.5c each (\$40 per 1000)	