



Eliminating Single Use



PLASTIC BAGS

There has been a staggering 80% drop in single use plastic bags since the big supermarket chains introduced a charge on bags in 2018, according to the National Retail Association.

This big change has resulted in more and more people bringing their own bags and not choosing single use unless it's really needed.

For those times when a bag is needed there are some great alternatives that businesses can offer.

Reusable alternatives

Encourage your customers to bring their own bag.

Offering reusable branded bags is a great way to advertise your business while also avoiding single use alternatives

Just make sure you choose the right material and your bags aren't lined with PVC.

Cotton, Jute or Canvas bags are all great options as they are made from natural renewable sources, are durable and cost effective, and also compostable at the end of their long lives.

Recoverable single use alternatives

If you do need to provide a single use alternative always ask your customer if they need a bag before giving them one and perhaps add a small fee. This is one of the best ways to encourage a change in behaviour

Also make sure you're offering an alternative with the least environmental impact.

This will depend on the recycling stream available to your customers.

The table over the page can help you identify the best material for the recycling stream you have available.

Recycling Stream	Alternative single use materials	Pros	Cons
Organics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compostable plastic (PLA RCPLA) Kraft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Fully recoverable when an organics bin is provided + Typically made from renewable resource stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easily mistaken for plastic, ensure bags are clearly marked as compostable - If organics bin is not available, it goes to landfill
Paper & Cardboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Normally reuseable and 100% recyclable + Low cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If contaminated, it goes to landfill
Soft Plastic recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% recycled non-PLA plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Free recycling available at all Coles/ Woolworths nationally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If soft plastic collection bin is not available, goes straight to landfill
Co-mingled	There are currently no single use bag options available that can be recovered through the co-mingled recycling stream		



Suppliers of more sustainable plastic bags

Biopack

<https://www.biopak.com.au/>

Vegware

<http://www.vegware.com.au/>

Pac Trading

<https://www.pactrading.com.au/>