

BONAIRE PLASTIC FREE!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS ARE BANNED?

The ban applies to all synthetic products that you use once and then throw away.

As of June 1, 2022, it is prohibited to sell or give away these products:

- Plastic stirrers
- Plastic straws
- Plastic tote bags (bag made of synthetic material, with or without a handle)
- Plastic cutlery (such as spoons, forks, knives and other products you use to eat with)

As of August 1, 2022, styrofoam food packaging is also prohibited. For example:

- Styrofoam trays (with and without lids)
- Styrofoam soup cups

WHAT IS PLASTIC AND WHY IS IT BANNED?

Plastic is a synthetic material and is not a natural substance, but it is made (chemically) by humans. It is created when you mix substances together. There are different types of synthetic materials. The ban is not only about plastic, but about all synthetic materials. That is why it also applicable to synthetic materials with a biological basis (bioplastics) and polystyrene food packaging.

What is plastic and why is it banned: continued

If we could reuse these substances, we would not ban them. But unfortunately, we cannot reuse these synthetic materials on Bonaire. The disposable plastic often ends up as litter. Therefore, the OLB bans certain plastic products altogether.

WHY ARE BIO PLASTICS ALSO BANNED?

There is sometimes confusion between plastic and bio plastic. Bio plastic is a synthetic material with a natural base, for example corn starch or sugar cane. Therefore, it sounds like this is not so bad for the environment, but that's not true. Bio plastics have the same negative properties as regular plastics. They do not break down in nature. If bio plastics get into nature, then it is also litter and nature gets polluted. Therefore, disposable products made of bio plastics will also be banned starting June 1, 2022.

WHO DOES THE BAN APPLY TO?

The ban applies to everyone on Bonaire who sells single-use plastic products or gives them away for free. It therefore concerns all synthetic products that you use once and then throw away. For example, styrofoam packaging for takeaway meal and plastic straws.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who does the ban apply to: continued

People who have to deal with this are:

- Producers
- Importers who import products from another country
- Entrepreneurs with a store
- Entrepreneurs with a restaurant
- Entrepreneurs with a web shop

In summary, the ban applies to the entire retail and service industry on Bonaire.

WHAT IS POLYSTYRENE FOOD PACKAGING?

Styrofoam means polystyrene. Styrofoam packaging is used to pack food that you can eat right away. Styrofoam also ensures that the food stays warm when it is delivered.

The ban on styrofoam food packaging applies only to styrofoam packaging. The ban is only about packaging of food that you can eat immediately.

For example:

- Styrofoam containers (with and without lids)
- Styrofoam soup cups

The ban does **not** apply to packaging made from other material. For example:

- Food packaging made of plastic or another sort of synthetic material. You may use food packaging made of plastic.
- Styrofoam packaging for food that still has to be prepared. For example, a styrofoam tray with meat in the supermarket.
- Styrofoam drinking cups.

WHEN DOES THE BAN GO INTO EFFECT?

As of June 1, 2022, you are no longer allowed to sell or give away plastic stirrers, straws, tote bags and cutlery on Bonaire. This ban also applies to bio plastics and other synthetic materials.

As of August 1, 2022, you are also no longer allowed to sell or give away styrofoam food packaging.

HOW IS THE BAN ENFORCED?

The police can check whether an entrepreneur keeps disposable plastic in stock, sells or gives away.

Would you like to know more about the enforcement of the ban? Then you can read [articles 32, 33 and 34 of the Island Ordinance Waste](#). The new ban on disposable plastic is an addition to the Island Ordinance Waste. The Island Council has adopted the [Island Ordinance for the prohibition of disposable plastic on Bonaire](#) on October 19, 2021.



STYROFOAM FOOD PACKAGING IS BANNED, BUT DRINKING CUPS ARE NOT. CAN I USE STYROFOAM DRINKING CUPS FOR SOUP?

No, you may not. The ban applies to styrofoam food packaging that you use to pack food that will be eaten quickly. It also applies to styrofoam food packaging that you use to store food. As of August 1, you may no longer sell or give away styrofoam cups or cups for soup.

You are allowed to keep using styrofoam cups for coffee. You are not allowed to put soup in a styrofoam coffee cup. That is prohibited by the regulation.

THESE ARE THE DEFINITIONS WE USE IN THE REGULATION:

Meal

Food eaten for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or between meals. Meals can be hot or cold. Side dishes are also included.

Food packaging

Synthetic products for packaging food. Characteristics of this type of meal are:

- A person can eat the meal right away or take it with them to eat.
- A person can eat the meal right out of the packaging.
- The meal is ready to eat immediately. The user does not need to further bake, cook or heat the food.

