



**DARTMOUTH FOOD FESTIVAL  
PLASTICS POLICY 2023**

[www.dartmouthfoodfestival.com](http://www.dartmouthfoodfestival.com)

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## 1. Introduction

The world and especially its oceans are being filled with plastics in every shape and form. A piece of plastic will be with us for at least 500 years before it completely degrades. Recycling does help with saving manufacturing resources but it still leaves us with a piece of plastic! Plastics are rapidly filling the landfill sites that still remain available. Every plastic item that ends up in the water around the world risks marine life in so many ways and there is now plenty of proof to suggest that it's finding its way into our food chain with potentially serious consequences.

The Dartmouth Food Festival takes place on the banks of the River Dart, which flows into one of the busiest waterways of the world and we are trying to play our part in tackling the growing environmental crisis caused by unwanted plastics. The Festival is, and has always been, committed to responsible food sourcing, reducing food miles and maintaining welfare standards. We are striving still further to increase our sustainability and beginning the journey to becoming a small part of the solution and not a bigger part of the problem.

With your help, the Festival will be reducing use of single use plastics and moving towards 100% use of compostable cutlery, cups, plates and packaging. This will allow us to dispose of the inevitable food waste together with what we eat it with and from, in a greener way!

You may also be aware of the government ban on single use plastics that will be introduced in Oct 2023. We have added the currently available information regarding this below and will update when more information is available

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/far-reaching-ban-on-single-use-plastics-in-england>

Please read this policy carefully because, as a Trader, you play a crucial role in helping us achieve our aim of becoming plastic free in the coming years. These may be small steps but we need everyone's help to achieve a positive change.

Please note, we always welcome feedback on what we are doing and how it affects you, as well as new ideas.

## 2. Essential criteria for trading

- All Traders must use compostable or biodegradable serve-ware and packaging. If possible, we would prefer that you use compostable, as this allows food and serve-ware to be recycled in the same bin. Biodegradable is NOT the same as compostable.
- Plastic or polystyrene are not permitted. See section 5.
- Sugar, salt & pepper and sauces must not be available in plastic single sachets. Paper sachets are permitted.
- All traders must use the recycling systems provided.

- No bottled water or drinks of any type in plastic disposable bottles are permitted to be sold at the event.
- No single use plastic bags or sample cups will be permitted.
- No plastic straws, spoons or cocktail sticks will be permitted. Bio corn starch straws are fine to use.

Please note that failure to adhere to any of the above may result in not being accepted as a Trader in future years. If you require any help or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **3. Bottled drinks**

We have introduced a ban on all drinks (including water) being sold in single use plastic bottles. Glass bottles are permitted and we will be encouraging all visitors to bring along their own water bottles. Our website will provide information to help the public get access to free water.

### **4. Ban of single use plastic bags, Plastic drinks sample pots, plastic spoons (OF any kind) and plastic cocktail sticks.**

This year NO single use plastic bags will be permitted and we will be encouraging visitors to bring their own “Bag for life”. Visitors will also be able to purchase our special edition Dartmouth Food Festival jute bags via our merchandise tent.

Exhibitors will not be allowed to provide sample drinks in plastic containers. We will not allow plastic spoons or plastic cocktail sticks to be used anywhere during the festival.

### **5. Serve-ware & packaging policy**

#### **Serve-ware policy**

We aim to recycle and compost as much as possible. All serve-ware including cutlery, plates, meal boxes, cups, glasses etc. must be ‘compostable’ or ‘biodegradable’ (preferably compostable).

Please note that serve-ware will be checked on-site during the weekend.

Permissible serve-ware:

- Wooden cutlery – spoons, forks and knives
- Compostable (or bio-degradable) paper and cardboard cups
- Compostable (or bio-degradable) paper plates, bowls and take-away containers
- Wooden stirrers

- Compostable PLA glasses

The following serve-ware types will NOT be acceptable:

- Expanded polystyrene
- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic single sachet servings of salt, pepper, sugar or sauces
- Plastic straws
- Disposable plastic bottles of any type

These images show some of the allowable serve-ware that you can use:



**Packaging Policy**

Packaging should be kept to a minimum and consist of only compostable or approved recyclable material:

- No single use plastic is permitted, eg plastic bags
- Plastics: PET, RPET, HDPE are ok to use
- Uncoated cards and plastics (starch-based compostable coatings are permissible)

## 6. Recycling systems

This year we are revamping our waste and recycling policy in an effort to become more sustainable. This is an on-going process and full details will be made available to you nearer the Festival.

## 7. Surplus food collection

We know that Traders do not intend to have surplus food, but are aware that sometimes this is unavoidable given the nature of the business. If there's a chance you will have food remaining at the end of the festival and would like to be able to use it for a good cause, please let us know. The festival host a free community lunch on the Monday after the festival using up all the surplus and left over foods from our workshops and demo tents along with any trader surplus. We will be collecting from stalls on Sunday afternoon around 4pm. Full details will be made available to you nearer the Festival. Please let us know if you are interested in this.

## 8. Recommended suppliers

A list of recommended suppliers is available upon request. Please email us at [office@dartmouth-foodfestival.com](mailto:office@dartmouth-foodfestival.com)