

# Factsheet

## Drink Stirrers

**MORE  
PLASTIC  
THAN FISH!**

Scientists predict that if we carry on as we are, by 2050 there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish.

### Avoidable plastic is making us stir crazy!

Whether it's mixing sugar into a good old brew, or perfectly suspending 3 olives in a vodka martini, there's no excuse for a drink stirrer causing environmental damage. This is an area where we would really like every business to ask, "do we really need these?" rather than "what can we use instead?"

Some of the disposable options below have a smaller carbon footprint than others, and some cause less pollution. But producing millions of tiny items that serve no real purpose, is a trend that simply doesn't fit in our sustainable future. Our message is Go reusable or go home!

### Go reusable or go home!

Metal teaspoons are all you need for hot drinks, and for cold drinks there are lovely reusable drinks stirrers made from metal, glass and lots of other materials that are far more elegant than the disposable plastic versions.



# #PlasticFree<sup>GM</sup>

## Sustainability rating

Red, amber, green

### Green:

A great sustainable choice.

Good work.



### Amber:

Doing well but room for improvement.

Move towards a green choice.



### Red:



Not a good choice for the planet.

Move to an amber choice.

Or even better a green choice.



## Making sustainable choices

Your choice	Our rating	Things to consider
We don't use drinking stirrers in any of our hot or cold drinks.	 <p>Green. A great sustainable choice.</p>	The most sustainable thing you can do, is not use any stirrers. That way there is nothing to throw away, recycle or even wash in the first place! This will save your business money too.
We only stock reusable stirrers (teaspoons, metal cocktail stirrers etc.) that we wash and re-use again and again.	 <p>Green. A great sustainable choice.</p>	Switching from any kind of disposable item to a reusable option is generally always more sustainable. It will save you money on your waste and recycling bill too.

We stock disposable bamboo or wooden stirrers.	 <p>Red. Not a good choice for the planet.</p>	A slightly better option than single-use plastic, but not by much. As the market grows for 'sustainable disposables' like bamboo and wooden stirrers, unscrupulous people start clearing woodland, forest and jungle land to grow crops that they can sell, and it's incredibly difficult to regulate.
We stock single-use plastic drink stirrers	 <p>Red. Not a good choice for the planet.</p>	Plastic stirrers aren't widely recycled. They are more likely to become litter because of their small size, which means they can break down and release microplastics that can harm wildlife, soil quality, and human health. If you're still using disposable plastic, it's time to change now!

## When and how to offer stirrers to customers

If you still use disposable stirrers, below are simple changes you can make to reduce the number of stirrers you use.

Your choice	And things to consider
We put a stirrer in every drink.	Don't put a stirrer in any drink. Wait for the customer to ask. Or ask the customer if they want a stirrer.
We keep our drink stirrers on the front of the bar or counter so customers can help themselves.	Keep drinking stirrers out of sight and only offer to customers who ask for one.

## Tell people you have made a change

If you decide to switch to some of the sustainable behaviours above, make sure you put up a sign or tweet about it. Tell your customer what change you have made and why. This will let your customers know that you are making a positive shift to help the environment in Greater Manchester. Remember to include #PlasticFreeGM and @GMGreenCity in your tweets so we can retweet you.