

Eliminating Event Plastics

Problematic single-use items at events and how we can swap them out for better alternatives.

 <p>Plastic Bottles</p>	<p>Canadians purchase about 2.4 billion litres of bottled water each year. With millions of plastic bottles entering landfills and the environment. Those plastic bottles never fully decompose, but eventually break down into smaller microplastics that pollute the surrounding environment.</p>	<p>Balloons cannot be recycled or composted. Landfill is the only disposal option, but many people release them directly into the environment. Whether latex with chemicals added or foil made of metallic plastic nylon sheets, balloons are dangerous as plastic pollution and a direct health threat to animals.</p>	 <p>Balloons</p>
	<p><i>Alternatives: BYO cups and travel mugs, water and beverage refill stations with reusable glasses</i></p>	<p><i>Alternatives: Recycled paper chains and garland, string lights, draped fabric and bunting, paper flowers</i></p>	
 <p>Glitter/Confetti</p>	<p>Glitter and plastic confetti are already very small plastics, which means there's no responsible way to sort them out or dispose of them. Most glitter is considered microplastic and easily leaks into the environment without needing additional time to decompose.</p>	<p>Everyone loves a party favour, but not all of them are useful! Many party favours and prizes are individually wrapped in plastic packaging. Often, these products such as small plastic toys and other knick knacks are not used by the recipient and end up in landfills.</p>	 <p>Party Favours</p>
	<p><i>Alternatives: Homemade bubbles, dried flower petals, popcorn, lavender and herbs, coconut flakes</i></p>	<p><i>Alternatives: Potted plants, baked goods, DIY meal or snack kits in mason jars, homemade bath fizzers</i></p>	
 <p>Signage/Badges</p>	<p>Creating new signage, wristbands, or badges for every event generates more waste per attendee. These items are landfilled because of mixed materials and lack of recycling options. These items are better reused, as opposed to customizing for single-use at one specific event.</p>	<p>Single-use food ware includes plastic cups, plates, bowls, cutlery, and other takeout containers. Drink accessories may include plastic straws, stir sticks, drink umbrellas or cocktail sticks. Most of these items are not able to be sufficiently recycled or composted in Canada, and generate unwanted plastic waste.</p>	 <p>Serviceware</p>
	<p><i>Alternatives: Digital tickets or wristbands, collecting signage/badges for reuse, paper wristbands</i></p>	<p><i>Alternatives: Reusable plates and cups, stainless steel cutlery, forgoing single-use drink garnishes/accessories</i></p>	