

Dish-washing System



Festivals and outdoor events typically generate large volumes of consumer waste from single-use eating and drinking utensils.

But it doesn't have to be like this!

Since 2018, Cairns Ecofiesta has run a centralised dish-washing system that supplies the events food and drink vendors with reusable crockery and cutlery, resulting in a massive 80% reduction in event waste.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q). Will I have to pay extra for the dish wash system?

A). No. You already pay a vendor fee and these funds will go toward equipment hire and staff wages to run the system.

Q). Do I have to supply my own crockery and cutlery?

A). No. Event organisers will supply a range of crockery and cutlery to you throughout the day, as per your pre-arranged requirements.

Q). What sort of cutlery and crockery will be supplied?

A). Dinner plates (25cm), side plates (15cm), bowls (350ml), small cups (200ml), mugs (300ml), medium glasses (300ml), and assorted cutlery.

Q). Am I required to participate system?

A). Yes. Your attendance at Ecofiesta is conditional upon your participation in this waste avoidance initiative.

Q). What happens if I run out of reusable dishes?

A). If you have customers waiting and no reusable dishes are available, you can revert to your own supply of single-use dishes, provided they are made from commercially compostable materials (i.e. paper, wood, biocups etc.). When reusable dishes become available you must then switch back to these.

Q). Who do I contact on the day if I have a problem?

A). Staff will be on-hand throughout the day and the dish-wash coordinator will introduce themselves to you as part of event bump-in.

Q). How will the dishes be washed?

A). To meet cleaning and sanitising requirements, dishes will be washed in an onsite commercial dishwasher.

Q). Why go to so much effort when all the vendors are using biodegradable utensils anyway?

A). While biodegradable eating and drinking utensils are better than single-use plastic options, they still result in large volumes of waste that can be avoided through reuse. Where better than Ecofiesta to show what is possible in terms of waste avoidance through simple, effective action.

Q). What is my role in this?

A). To serve your food / beverage using the crockery and cutlery supplied to you.

A). To remind customers to return dirty dishes to the Dish Wash Marquee.

A). To be an enthusiastic promoter of the dish wash system when serving customers.

Figure: Indicative Site Plan for Festival Dish-wash System

