

## Reducing and removing sugary drinks

Healthy choices

Sugary drinks contain a lot of sugar and excess kilojoules, with little to no nutritional value.

Many organisations, like health services and sporting facilities, have reduced or removed sugary drinks from their retail food outlets, vending machines, and/or catering. This is a common first step when implementing the Healthy Choices guidelines.

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### What are sugary drinks?

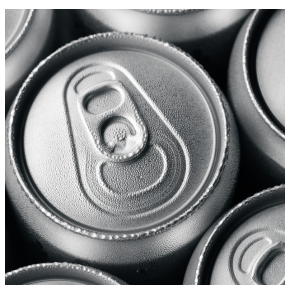
Sugary drinks (or sugar-sweetened beverages) include all non-alcoholic, water-based drinks with added sugar. This includes non-diet soft drinks, energy drinks, fruit drinks (not fruit juice), sports drinks and cordials.

They are also classified as **RED (Limit)**, according to the Healthy Choices guidelines.

Milk-based drinks and >99% fruit juices with no added sugar are not considered sugary drinks. Diet drinks and artificially sweetened drinks are also not considered sugary drinks.

You can assess your drinks online or find out which drinks are classified as **GREEN (best choices)**, **AMBER (choose carefully)** and **RED** using FoodChecker.

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### Tips for removing sugary drinks

- Speak to management to get support for the planned changes. Present them with information on why your organisation should address sugary drinks.

You could outline:

- the duty of care that your organisation has for the wellbeing of its staff, customers and/or visitors
- the negative impacts associated with providing sugary drinks
- the benefits to your organisation by reducing or removing them

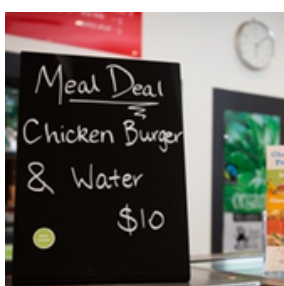
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You'll also need to engage the people responsible for sourcing and supplying foods and drinks (such as contract managers, retail outlet managers, vending suppliers or catering providers) to learn more about any contracts or agreements related to the provision of drinks in your organisation.

Once you have commitment from management and you are aware of any contractual obligations, you can support the relevant staff to reduce or remove them.

Every organisation is different, so you'll need to work out the best approach for yours, such as reducing sugary drinks all at once, or reducing the amount of sugary drinks over time.

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## Encouraging healthier drink choices

Don't be afraid to trial things for a few weeks or months to see what works best for your organisation before making a permanent change.

Reducing or removing sugary drinks will be most successful when you provide customers with affordable and attractive healthier options.

There are a number of ways you can nudge customers and staff to make healthier drink choices by changing how drinks are placed, priced and promoted.

Some 'nudges' you could trial in retail outlets include:

- Reducing the amount of **RED** drinks in drink fridges, while increasing the amount of **GREEN**
- Removing **RED** drinks from display completely, displaying mostly **GREEN** drinks
- Increasing the price of **RED** drinks, and subsidising the price of **GREEN** drinks
- Including **GREEN** drinks in healthy meal deals.

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## Additional resources and inspiration

### Water in Sport Initiative

Read about the Water in Sport initiative which aimed to support Victorian sports and recreation facilities in improving the availability and promotion of water instead of sugary drinks.

### Rethink sugary drink

Visit Rethink Sugary Drink for tips and resources to help you reduce or remove sugary drinks, including posters and workplace e-kit.

### Free webinar

Reducing Sugary Drinks Availability in Sport and Recreation Centres. Presenters discuss ways sport and recreational environments can implement or maintain changes they have made to reduce sugary drink availability.

### Seek inspiration and ideas

We have real life examples of how other organisations have limited sugary drinks, and the evidence on their financial impact, such as:

- [Alfred Health's sugary drinks trials](#)
- [City of Melbourne's North Melbourne Recreation Centre Cafe](#)
- [YMCA Victoria's 'Soft Drink Free Summer'](#)