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Bakeries in Doon taking steps to minimise single-use plastic

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Dehradun: In line with the awareness being spread on the harmful effects of single-use plastic, bakeries in the city, too, are devising ways to minimise its use while packaging their products.

Several bakeries have stopped giving out plastic knives, spoons and straws to customers and some have started using butter paper to pack products like breads, cakes and rusks, which were earlier wrapped in plastic.

"We are strictly following the FSSAI guidelines and have replaced single-use plastic with butter paper and plastic spoons with wooden forks and spoons," Varun Gulati, owner of Nany's Bakery, told TOI. However, city bakers point out that using eco-friendly alternatives of plastic for packaging ups the costs and non-availability of alternative packing materials remains a challenge.

Also, the pâtisseries say that they are facing challenges in ensuring that the products remain fresh in alternate packing materials. "Bread packed in butter paper becomes hard within a day thereby reducing its shelf-life considerably," said Surender Wasan of Grand Bakers. Anoop Nautiyal, founder of city-based thinktank Gati Foundation said that "there is a lot yet to be done in eliminating single-use plastic but the pledge by bakeries to not use single-use plastic is a step in the right direction." To recapitulate, in August, several bakers and confectioners in the city had promised to minimise the use of plastic products and adhere to the norms set by various government bodies on the use of cooking oil as well as labour laws.

The decision was taken at a workshop for bakers and confectioners organised jointly by the Dehradun Halwai Association and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).