



Should snacks be banned in cinemas?

For lots of people, eating a bucket of popcorn adds to the fun of going to the cinema – but not everyone feels the same way.

What you need to know.

- A 2016 survey reveals that people spend nearly 10 Euros extra each on popcorn and drinks, when they go to see a film at the cinema.
- Last year a film fan started a petition to ban popcorn in UK cinemas, saying that the noisy snack was ruining his enjoyment of films.
- Popcorn fans responded by starting their own petition, saying that the snack is an important part of the cinema experience.

Every week hundreds of thousands of people go to the cinema and many will have bought snacks to enjoy during the screening. A survey carried out in 2016 showed that on top of the ticket to watch the film, we spend an average of 10 euros

on extras, such as sweets, popcorn and drinks every time we go to the cinema.

SNACKS ARE ANTISOCIAL

When people around you in the cinema are slurping on their drinks, rustling sweet wrappers, eating popcorn and other snacks in the cinema, it is distracting and can spoil the film for you. Some people also find the smell of food like popcorn and nachos unpleasant. These food are messy and there is often lots of fallen food and litter to be cleared up after a screening. They can also be a health problem, the snacks often come in huge sizes and contain a lot of fat, sugar and salt, which are not good for you. Nor are they cheap – a bucket of popcorn and a drink can cost around 10 Euros. Parents may feel pressured to buy them for their children on top of the expensive cinema tickets. Cinemas are just selling treats as a way to make more money, but the cost could put families off going to see films all together.

NO SNACKS IS NO FUN

Going to the cinema is about more than just watching a film, it's a big occasion and having snacks like popcorn, drinks, pick 'n' mix sweets or ice-cream is an important part of the whole experience. What could be more fun than watching a film together with your friends or family while sharing tasty treats? Part of the excitement is choosing what to eat in the cinema because you probably don't get to choose every day and the food doesn't have to be super-healthy. Cinemas are very expensive to run and a lot of the money from ticket sales goes to the companies that make the films, not to the cinema. If cinemas were stopped from selling food and drinks, they may not make enough money and might have to close, and that would be bad for everyone.

3 reasons FOR snacks being banned in cinemas.

- Cinemas ask you to turn your mobile phone off and then they let people eat noisy snacks which ruins the film.
- Cinema refreshments often come in very big sizes and are unhealthy.
- Selling expensive snacks is just another way for cinemas to get more money out of you.

3 reasons AGAINST snacks being banned in cinemas.

- Eating popcorn and sweets is a big part of the cinema experience and adds to the fun.
- Selling snacks and drinks is an essential way for cinemas to make enough money to stay in business.
- Why would you ban something that tastes so good?