

Chewing gum legalized in Singapore

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After twelve years, Singapore has relaxed its ban on chewing gum. But not so fast.

Before Singaporeans think about unwrapping a pack of Wrigley's Orbit gum that's just started selling here — and only in pharmacies — they must submit their names and ID card numbers. If they don't, pharmacists who sell them gum could be jailed up to two years and fined 5,000 Singapore dollars (\$2,940).

Chewing gum, or more precisely the threat of chewing gum, is employed in the wonderful movie *I Not Stupid*, which I heartily recommend. It seems to revel in the mixed feelings Singaporeans harbor towards their own culture. (My favorite character is the chubby kid.)

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