

Single-Use Plastic Straws

WHY WE MUST STOP SUCKING

- Americans use million of single-use plastic straws each day. These straws are not recyclable.
- Plastic straws and stirrers were the 7th most commonly found item on beaches worldwide during the International Coastal Cleanup in 2017.
- Many straws are made from polystyrene, the same plastic used to make polystyrene foam and a likely carcinogen to humans.
- 15+ million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean each year.
- Experts predict that there will be 1 lb of plastic for every 3 lbs of fish in the oceans by 2025.
- Half of all plastics ever created were produced in the past 15 years.
- A mere 9% of all plastics are recycled; plastic straws cannot be recycled in most places.
- Plastic straws persist in the environment for at least 200 years.
- There are microplastic particles in the water we drink, the air we breathe and the food we eat - the impact of these particles on human health is not yet fully understood.
- It's important to note that straws are a necessity for some people with disabilities, which is why we advocate for providing “straws upon request” as well as providing paper or reusable straws, if needed.

