Plastic Straws

*A Sippy Situation*

Understanding Plastic Pollution

<https://www.strawlessocean.org/faq/>

* We use over 500 million straws every day in the United States
* By the year 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish (could have icons of fish and a lot of plastic products)
* Straws are too light to be processed through the mechanical recycling sorter so they get dropped into the garbage
* How do they end up in the ocean? Human Error.
  + Left on beaches in coastal communities and resorts
  + Littered
  + Blown out of trash cans
* 71% of seabirds and 30% of turtles have been found with plastic in their stomachs
* When various forms of marine life have plastic in them, they have a 50% mortality rate
* Plastic can also breakdown in “microplastics” rather than biodegrading or dissolving which threatens the marine life
* Not saying don’t use straws, just use biodegradable ones
* Straws are among the top 10 items found on beaches during clean ups
* It is the easiest and simplest way for everyone to take action

The Environmental Impact of Plastic Straws – Facts, Statistics, and Infographic

<https://get-green-now.com/environmental-impact-plastic-straws/>

* The USA uses 500 million straws every single day (enough to circle the Earth 2.5times)
* Plastic straws are the 11th more found ocean trash (2017)
* Takes up to 200 years for plastic straws to decompose

Charles Moore

* In 1997, Charles J. Moore, oceanographer and boat captain, and his crew made a discovery that would put the omnipresence of pollution into a new perspective. As Moore and crew were returning to California, they discovered a large mass of trash floating in the North Pacific Gyre. He then began bringing awareness to the mass by writing extensive articles on the garbage patch as well as the effects it had on sea life.
* Sea turtles living in the region have a diet that consists of up to 74 percent plastic
* The slurry of trash and seawater loosely held together by Pacific currentsspans 617,762 square miles, roughly twice the size of Texas.