



STOP
SUCKING.
SAVE OUR OCEAN.

DID YOU KNOW?

In America we use over 500 million plastic straws each day. This is enough to wrap around the world twice!

Here in the US, single-use plastic straws are everywhere. They are at your local coffee shop, in your soda at dinner, sold in bulk at your grocery store, and maybe even a handful of them are sitting in your kitchen drawer. Many of us use these straws for a few minutes— maybe half an hour—before discarding them into the trash or recycling after only one use. You, like many other Americans, might be guilty of this national problem and that’s ok. OneLessStraw is here to help before it’s too late.

In recent years, it has come to many Americans’ attention that the usage of single-use plastic items truly harms our environment. Not only is the waste from these products not economical, but they are hurting marine life in irreversible ways and, if we do not begin to reduce this footprint soon, we might not be able to fix it.

Single-use plastic straws are exactly what you think—they are the plastic straws that most likely come in paper wrapping at your local restaurant, coffee shop, or take-out. You use them once and immediately throw them out. If you were to use one every day for a year, like some people do, that is 365 plastic straws a year. This habit adds up to over 20,000 plastic straws in your lifetime, and you are only one person out of 7.53 billion on this Earth. Imagine if everyone used a single-use plastic straw every day for their lifetime. That’s a lot of plastic going to waste!

And where does all of this plastic go? Once we throw these plastic products away, they end up in the landfill or burned, but small, lightweight items like plastic straws are at risk of escaping into the environment and making its way into the rivers and oceans. Plastic straws along with other plastic items that cannot be broken down are detrimental to our oceans, polluting the waters and



killing marine life. According to Get Green Now, one million seabirds and 100,000 marine animals die from ingesting plastic each year. An estimated 71% of seabirds and 30% of turtles have been found with plastic in their stomachs. Marine life has a 50% mortality rate when having ingested plastic.

Plastic straws are among the most commonly found litter on beaches, doing harm to the waters they enter. Whether blown by the beach breeze from your drink or dropped into the sand, the large number of plastic straws left behind on our shores is a big problem we cannot ignore. Something so small and light can be easy to ignore, but when there’s hundreds or even thousands, we shouldn’t and we can’t. This big problem is causing even bigger consequences.



WHY ARE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS SUCH A PROBLEM?

Due to the lightweight attributes of most of the plastic straws we use, these products cannot make it through the mechanical recycling sorter. This means that even if you try to recycle it, the plastic straw is too light to actually be recycled. This, along with the litter from so many Americans and pieces that get piled onto overfilled trashcans, contributes to the plastic that ends up in our oceans and harming marine life.

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR PLASTIC STRAW TO BREAKDOWN NATURALLY?

Plastic never has been and never will be “disposable.” Although some plastic straws are made from recycled plastic, it is not necessarily better for our environment once you are done using it. When something is biodegradable, it can naturally be broken down and digested by the organisms in our environment, where it is then organically recycled into new molecules. An example of this is the leftover apple core one might toss into the grass. Plastic on the other hand is not biodegradable, nor can it degrade really at all once you are done with it. Once the plastic is on this Earth, it can be broken into smaller and smaller pieces, but the plastic has nowhere else to go, thus it will always remain here with us on Earth. Over time, this really adds up. The plastic we use and dispose of really adds up.

Try one of the many alternatives to plastic straws!

PAPER STRAWS

Still single-use, but marine-degradable and biodegradable. Aardvark® straws use only fda compliant, food-grade materials, and are marine degradable and compostable.

GLASS STRAWS

Reusable and durable. Ecostraw creates a glass straw that is dishwasher safe and safe for our environment, too.

BAMBOO STRAWS

Offering the lowest carbon footprint other than being #strawless. Strawfree.Org bamboo straws are made of sustainably harvested bamboo for a reusable, compostable drinking straw.

STAINLESS STEEL STRAWS

100% recyclable and can be reused endlessly. Klean kanteen® offers a reusable solution to disposable plastic straws

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. First and foremost, **be aware**. By understanding the footprint we are making while here on Earth, we can better understand how to do better in our environment now and for the future.
2. Next, **ditch the single-use plastic straw**. If possible, go #strawless, but if you wish not to part with it, consider alternatives to single-use plastic straws such as reusable ones.
3. When out for lunch, be sure to **tell your waiter you don't want a straw BEFORE** he brings your drink to the table and convince the others in your party to do the same. You can BYOS—bring your own straw—if you wish to do so (as long as it is an environmentally-friendly one).
4. Try to **convince local restaurants and shops to go #strawless** with you. Using the information above, inform them of the hazardous repercussions of ongoing single-use plastic straws and how it is harming our waters and the environment in general.
5. And finally, talk to others about the problem. Spread the word on the #strawlesschallenge and **see what difference you can make**.

HOW CAN YOU GO BEYOND PLEDGING TO STOP USING PLASTIC STRAWS?

By going #strawless you are becoming aware of the single-use plastic products that harm our environments. This is one of the many problems in our environment that we should be considerate of when we lead our everyday lives. According to Euromonitor International Market Research Blog, worldwide plastic consumption totaled 300 million metric tonnes in 2015—that is a TON. In comparison to this, it may seem as if something as small as a plastic straw barely makes a difference, but it is a start. If everyone were to be conscious of the single-use plastic straws they threw in the garbage, our plastic consumption would be considerably less. The strawless movement is an easily adaptable concept that opens the doors to larger global pollution problems. **Don't stop at straws, but start there.** Look to other plastic items in your life that may be replaced with something reusable and eco-friendly and run with it.

DID YOU KNOW?

If we continue using plastic straws as much as we do now, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by the year 2050.

OneLessStraw

GO #STRAWLESS

DON'T STOP AT STRAWS, BUT START THERE.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ONE MORE GENERATION (OMG)

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