

Single-Use Plastic Straws

WHY WE MUST STOP SUCKING

- Americans use more than 500 million plastic straws each day - enough to circle the Earth 2.5 times.
- 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 styrofoam 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 13 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.
- Straws are a necessity for some people with disabilities, which is why we advocate for “straws on request” as well as paper or reusable straws.

