

Seattle Becomes First Major U.S. City to Ban Straws

On July 1st, Seattle became the first major U.S. city to ban plastic straws and utensils. In 2008 an ordinance was passed that banned any one-time-use food-service items that aren't recyclable or compostable, but the city made an exception for straws and utensils. Back then, biodegradable utensils and straws weren't widely available. The exemption ended on June 30, and businesses can be fined \$250 if they don't comply.

Image credit: David Suzuki: Straws Suck

Our shoes, our clothing, our contact lenses, chewing gum, food containers, and so much more – all made of plastic. It's in our salt, our food, and it's in our water. Plastic may be the most insidious and enduring product we've ever produced. It is suffocating our planet and causing catastrophic pollution, much of it hidden and microscopic.

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Here's a video about a whale dying from eating a plastic DVD case. Here's a sea turtle with a straw stuck up its nose. Also, check out the documentary, *Plastic Ocean*.

People in the U.S. discard an estimated 500 million straws every day. Since Seattle has taken a stand against this completely unnecessary plastic waste hopefully others will follow suit.

Related Reading:

- *Microplastics In Tap Water and Beer Around the Great Lakes, and Everywhere Else*
- *Drinking Bottled Water Means Drinking Microplastics, According To Damning New Study*

- *Many Hand-me-down Plastic Toys Are Toxic for Kids*

Source:

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