

STRAWS SUCK!

500,000,000

disposable plastic straws are used in the USA in one day!

According to Be Straw Free organization. Based on estimates provided by straw manufacturers.



Enough to fill 127 school buses.

8%

of world oil production is used to manufacture plastics.

Waste Watch Plastic Information Sheet

WHAT A WASTE!

Straw production is one of the most energy intensive processes on the planet.

Oil must be located and drilled for, shipped to a factory and turned into straws; wrapped in paper, packaged and loaded onto trucks to be distributed.

Now think of all the pollution involved!



OIL DRILLING

+



SHIPPING

+



MANUFACTURE

+



DISTRIBUTION

=



All that for an object that provides about 10 minutes of use and then becomes trash!

Like all plastic, straws are made from petroleum - a natural resource that is running out.

STRAWS DO NOT BIODEGRADE

Plastic is a man-made substance and not recognized by nature. There is no natural system to absorb it. It's a material that the earth cannot digest!



THEY PHOTODEGRADE

Over time, the sun's UV rays break plastic down into smaller, more harmful pieces that last 100's of years.

Even then it is still plastic.

PLASTIC IS FOREVER ∞

Every piece of plastic ever produced still exists in some shape or form.

STRAWS ARE NOT RECYCLED

Plastics are stamped with a resin code so that they can be sorted for recycling - an imperfect, labor intensive and costly job.

We dispose of so much plastic that we are only able to recycle the most common types.

Plastic production has outpaced recycling by 5 times in the past decade.



#1 to #3 are most commonly recycled.



#4 to #7 usually become trash.

Straws are #5

SO WHAT HAPPENS TO STRAWS

SOME ARE INCINERATED

This generates toxic emissions which pollute the atmosphere and contribute to climate change.

Straws create pollution at every stage of their existence: manufacture, use and disposal.

WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THEM?

MOST GO TO LANDFILLS

There they're buried in the ground and leach harmful chemicals into the soil and groundwater.

It is believed that there are over 18,000 pieces of plastic litter floating in every square kilometer of ocean. UNEP 2006

THE REST END UP IN THE OCEAN

Because straws are tiny, lightweight and buoyant they have the ability to travel great distances.

They float down rivers and sewers and into the sea. Eventually they join great garbage patches that choke and poison the food chain.

60 TO 80% of marine debris is plastic.*

86%

of all turtle species are affected by plastic.*

* Greenpeace report 2006
Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans

It is estimated that **1 MILLION SEA BIRDS,**

100,000 MARINE MAMMALS

and countless fish are killed by plastic pollution each year.

Marine Litter - Trash that Kills, UNEP

A dead turtle found off Hawaii, had ingested **OVER 1000** individual pieces of plastic.

Straws are **1 OF THE TOP 10** items found in beach cleanups.

DURING THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

567,633

volunteers from around the globe picked up

more than **10 MILLION POUNDS**

of marine debris

Equal to the weight of **41 BLUE WHALES**

REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE
REFUSE DON'T BE A SUCKER
Say NO to straws!

Printed on recycled paper.

**WE ARE ALL PART OF THE PROBLEM.
SO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION!**

JOIN

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY!

21 September 2013 • 10am to 12pm
Strandfontein Beach

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