STRAWS AND STIRRERS
NEW REQUIREMENTS

Effective October 29, 2018, the Mayor’s List of Recyclables and Compostables requires the use of compostable and/or reusable straws and stirrers when serving and selling food or beverages in the District.

COMPLIANT PRODUCTS FOR USE IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
- PAPER
- BAMBOO
- HAY
- STAINLESS STEEL
- GLASS
- PLA (BPI-CERTIFIED)

To reduce waste and cut costs, the District advocates for businesses to only offer compliant straws by request. DOEE recognizes some customers with disabilities require plastic straws as a reasonable accommodation to consume food or beverages.

Regulated entities must keep a limited stock of plastic straws available to meet these needs and remain compliant with local and federal disability rights laws.

HOW TO GET & STAY IN COMPLIANCE

Why is this happening?

Banning plastic straws and stirrers will help reduce plastic waste and litter that pollutes District communities and waterways. Plastic straws and stirrers are easily blown and washed into local waterways, where they can remain for hundreds of years before breaking down.

GET AHEAD OF THE GAME & TAKE THE PLEDGE

As major distributors of plastic straws, the food service industry can contribute to the District’s effort to reduce plastic waste. Join the growing community of businesses and organizations taking action with the OUR LAST STRAW Coalition. Unite in the effort to reduce plastic waste in the District and pledge to #StopSucking at ourlaststraw.org.

For more information on compliant products and District food service ware requirements, visit: doee.dc.gov/foodserviceware