



Plastic Straws in Food Establishments

Food establishments and restaurants are prohibited from providing plastic straws to customers unless requested by the customer. This fact sheet provides guidance on the new law and answers frequently asked questions.

Who must comply?

Oregon
Administrative Rule
603-25-0030

Sections:
1-201.10
4-502.13

All restaurants and food establishments, including convenience stores must comply by January 1, 2020. These establishments may be either a food or beverage provider, but is not a health care or residential care facility as defined in Oregon Revised Statute 443.400.

Plastic straws versus other types of straws?

- Plastic straws are tubes made primarily from plastic that are derived from petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or another plant source, that are intended to transfer liquid from a container to a consumer's mouth. They are considered for single use and for disposal after the single use.
- Straws are also made from materials other than plastic, including but not limited to paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood or bamboo.
- The law does not pertain to straws that are attached to, or packaged with, a beverage container before the beverage container is offered for retail sale.

Limitations of the straw rule?

- A food and beverage facility may offer a single-use plastic straw to a consumer seated in or on a motorized vehicle. Straws cannot automatically be included in a customer's food bag in a drive through.
- A store may sell or offer single-use plastic straws for sale in bulk or unconnected with a sale or provision of food or a beverage.
- A store may leave single-use plastic straws in an unattended location only if they do not have space in a location attended by employees.

Frequently asked questions:

- May an employee of a firm ask the customer if they would like a straw?
 - » No, the customer must initiate the conversation to request a straw.
- May a retail food or beverage establishment provide plastic straws such as "swizzle" sticks without customer request?
 - » No.
- Are paper straws permitted to be dispensed without the consumer requesting a straw?
 - » Yes.
- May a food establishment ask a person walking up through a "drive through" if they want a straw?
 - » No, the person must be in or on a motorized vehicle.
- May a delivery vehicle driver ask a patron if they would like a straw?
 - » No, the customer must initiate the request.
- Does this law pertain to an establishment holding a temporary event?
 - » Yes.
- Can retail or convenience store sell packaged bulk straws on the store shelf?
 - » Yes. A store may sell single-use straws in bulk and unconnected with a sale or provision of a beverage.
- May a sign be used to convey the stores policy on plastic straws?
 - » Yes.



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