FAQs - continued

Q. What is the penalty for not complying?
A. A violation of the ban is a Class D Municipal infraction resulting in:
   - $100.00 fine for first offense
   - $200.00 fine for subsequent violations

Q. What are some alternatives to plastic straws and stirrers?
A. - Hay/Bamboo
   - Paper
   - Stainless Steel
   - Single-use and/or reusable
   - For more information, visit: takomaparkmd.gov/Neighborhood services.gov/

Q. Where can I find more information about the ordinance and compliance?
A. Please visit: takomaparkmd.gov/Neighborhood-services.gov/

City of Takoma Park
Neighborhood Services
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

For more information contact:
Neighborhood Services at 301-891-7113
or neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov
What’s Wrong with Plastic Straws?

Plastics have been with us since 1950. In a short 70 years, 9 billion metric tons have been produced (and production continues to increase), of which more than 6 billion metric tons remain with us as solid waste.

It may seem like a small thing – but small things add up.

Some facts:
• Global momentum has built to phase out single-use plastics.
• Plastic straws are one of the top items found in shoreline clean-ups and our local waterways.
• Plastic takes centuries to decompose and breaks down into smaller pieces.
• Marine animals mistake the small plastic bits for food.
• Volunteers taking part in a recent trash cleanup of the Anacostia River collected more than 4,000 straws.
• Phasing out plastic straws is one step toward a sustainable future.

Takoma Park Code: 8.52.010 Definitions.

“Plastic beverage straw” means a tube made predominantly of plastic derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant sources, for transferring a beverage from its container to the mouth of the drinker.

“Plastic stirrer” means a device that is used to mix beverages, intended for only one-time use, and made predominantly of plastic derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant sources.

What Other Materials Are Available That Establishments Can Use?

“Non-plastic material” means paper, sugar cane, bamboo, rubber, metal, or other material deemed as non-plastic by the City Manager.

FAQs

Q. Why reduce the use of plastic straws and/or plastic stirrers?
A. Plastic beverage straws and stirrers are NOT recyclable and contribute to litter in our local parks and waterways.

Q. What is required?
A. If a straw is requested, please provide only non-plastic straws.

A flexible plastic straw should be made available for those with special needs, if requested.

Q. Who must comply?
A. All retail establishments in the city.

Q. When does the law take effect?
A. Beginning January 1, 2020, notices of violations may be issued.

Citations may be issued beginning July 1, 2020.