

## FAQs - continued

### Q. What is the penalty for not complying?

A. A violation of the ban is a Class D Municipal infraction resulting in a:

\$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 reuseable
  - For more information, visit: [takomaparkmd.gov/Neighborhoodservices.gov/](http://takomaparkmd.gov/Neighborhoodservices.gov/)

### Q. Where can I find more information about the ordinance and compliance?

- A. Please visit: [takomaparkmd.gov/Neighborhoodservices.gov/](http://takomaparkmd.gov/Neighborhoodservices.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](mailto:neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov)



Neighborhood Services

## Plastic Beverage Straw and Stirrer Ban



**PHASE ~~OUT~~**  
**PLASTIC STRAWS**

**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.

