

Product Stewardship for Straws

Attention is rightly turning to the overall volume of consumer waste generated by the way in which we use products, and in turn many are looking for ways to reduce or eliminate wasteful uses of products. Consumer attention has recently focused on situations where drinking straws are automatically provided as an area where unnecessary use could be reduced.

There are many circumstances in which the use of drinking straws will enhance safety, and promote sanitary conditions. Some examples include beverages consumed while driving, hospital use, daily living for people with physical impairments or recovering from injury, seniors and others who may have difficulty lifting a drink, and travelling with small children.

However, there are also circumstances when a drinking straw is automatically provided in a drink before the consumer has asked for one.

To avoid unnecessary and potentially wasteful use, customers should be able to request a straw when they need one, and decline a straw when they do not. Providing customers a choice before a straw is placed in their beverage makes sense and could reduce waste and litter. We encourage material suppliers, product makers, food/drink establishments and NGOs to work collaboratively to promote the responsible use of straws.

Plastic makers support a number of programs designed to reduce waste, educate consumers, and expand waste management technologies and infrastructure.

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