

Plastic Straw Ban at Full Service Restaurants – Starting January 2019

Background: In an effort to reduce the amount of waste generated by single-use plastics, a law was passed that restricts full-service restaurants from providing single-use plastic straws unless requested by a customer. This law is effective starting January 1, 2019.



Who this applies to:

The plastic straw ban only applies to “***Full Service Restaurants***”. A full service restaurant is defined as a food facility at which ***all*** the following apply:

- The consumer is escorted or assigned to an eating area
- Food and beverage orders are taken after the consumer has been seated
- Food and beverages are delivered directly to the consumer
- The check is delivered directly to the consumer in the dining area

This plastic straw ban does not apply to:

- “to-go” orders
- Restaurants where food or beverages are ordered at a counter
- Restaurants where customers seat themselves
- Counter service coffee/tea shops
- Buffet restaurants



Customer Request:

A plastic straw can be provided whenever requested by a customer.

Plastic Straw Alternatives: If a full service restaurant wishes to provide straws without waiting for a customer request, they may provide straws made from non-plastic materials such as paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood or bamboo. Re-useable metal straws are also allowed as long as they meet the requirements for utensils (CalCode Section 114130).

Can a facility that is not a full service restaurant stop providing straws?

Yes. Any food facility owner can elect to stop providing straws, however, straws are often helpful to people with disabilities and keeping straws available upon request is highly recommended.

Questions: If you have questions about the plastic straw ban for full service restaurants, please contact Sacramento County Environmental Management Department. Environmental Health Specialists are available Monday-Friday from 8-10am at (916) 875-8440.