

Plastic straw ban



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

From **1 July 2023**, single-use plastic straws will be banned, with an exemption for disabled people and those with health needs.

Plastic straws are needed by some people to drink and eat. Paper or reusable straws aren't always suitable or safe. For example, metal straws can be dangerous for people with a tremor or temperature sensitivity, and paper can dissolve too quickly.



Straw users

- If you need plastic straws, you will still be able to ask for them at some places. This includes purchasing them from online overseas retailers.
- You can continue to receive plastic straws through a health or disability support service.
- There is no time limit to this exemption.
- You do not need to give proof of your disability or need to access a straw.

Straw providers

- Supermarkets, pharmacies, cafes and restaurants, charities, schools and universities, and health and disability services can choose to stock plastic straws for people who need them.
- While you are not required to stock plastic straws, you are welcome to do so as this helps people who need them to eat and drink.
- If you choose to stock plastic straws, a person (or someone acting on their behalf) does not need to explain or give proof of their disability or health condition to access one.
- Wholesalers and distributors can supply and distribute plastic straws for the above purposes.

Visit: www.environment.govt.nz/plastics or email: plastics@mfe.govt.nz

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a flourishing environment for every generation.