

PLASTIC STRAWS FACT SHEET



500 MILLION PLASTIC STRAWS

are used and dumped in the US every day. That's enough to circle the earth 2.5 times. A lot of them end up in the environment. Straws are so lightweight that they are blown out of trash cans and into the gutter or nearby rivers, both leading to the oceans.

PLASTIC STRAWS ARE NOT RECYCLED

The are made of polypropylene (recycling code 5) and are very hard to recycle. If they do make it to the recycling facilities, they are so small they easily pass through the sorting sieves and are sent to landfills. Once in landfills, chances are high they escape yet again.



1 MILLION SEABIRDS AND 100,000 MARINE ANIMALS

are killed by plastic every year, straws being among the primary reasons. They are among the top 10 waste items collected on beach cleanups.

IT TAKES AT LEAST 200 YEARS

for straws to finally decompose into smaller and smaller pieces. These so-called microplastics absorb and transport toxins throughout our soil and water systems. They are also eaten by animals which accumulate the toxins in their bodies.

