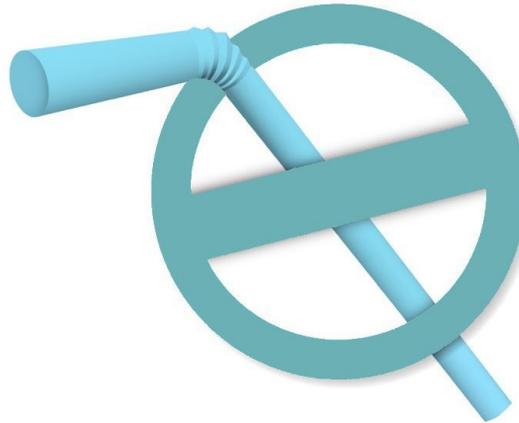


Convenience at a Cost

There are many single-use plastic items that we take for granted everyday. The two most common forms being plastic straws and bags. Though they are convenient, they can have drastic effects on the environment if not disposed of properly. Many species of wildlife ingest plastic they believe to be food. Sea turtles eat plastic bags by mistake because they resemble jellyfish floating in water.

The problem is the sheer number of these items we use every day. Most of which are disposed of in the garbage instead of being recycled. Plastic straws are common to find in our waterways simply because of their size. Being small enough to slip out of dumpsters and light enough to blow in the wind. Plastic Bags are found just about anywhere the wind blows. Though there are many practical uses for straws and grocery bags, they are not entirely necessary for most people and certainly shouldn't be disposable.



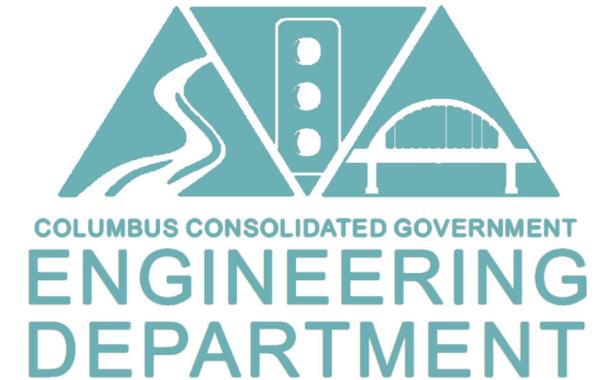
In the United States alone we use an estimated 500 million plastic straws a day.

How can you help?

- Have a reusable straw. There are various different styles of reusable straws on the market ranging from bamboo to titanium.
- Refuse plastic straws while at restaurants.
- Purchase some reusable grocery totes. They are readily available at most grocery stores.
- Recycle



For more information, contact:
Columbus Consolidated Government
Stormwater & Floodplains Division
420 10th Street, Columbus, GA 31901
706-225-4441
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Be Part of the Solution, Not the Pollution!



Stormwater Division

What is Litter?

Litter is any trash or solid waste that has not been disposed of properly. In large quantities it can reduce the appeal of a community. It can pose environmental, safety and health risks such as...

- Litter can potentially dam creeks causing flooding to surrounding areas.
- Sharp objects like broken glass can cause injury if stepped on.
- Decaying food and pet waste can spread disease, putting lives at risk.

Top five forms of litter found at River Cleanups:

1. Cigarette Butts
2. Plastic Bottles
3. Food Packaging such as Milk Jugs and Styrofoam Cups.
4. Plastic Bags
5. Aluminum Cans



How long does it take for litter to decompose?

- An apple core takes roughly around 2 months
- 6 weeks for a newspaper
- Styrofoam can take 50 years
- Plywood 1-3 years
- A cotton shirt could take 2-5 months
- Glass Bottle are undetermined

What can you do?

- Be responsible and clean up your own trash. Set an example for others by not littering.
- Always have a trash bag available in your vehicle.
- Dispose of trash properly. Not on the ground or out your car window.
- Get involved in charity cleanups like Help the Hooch.
- Recycle accordingly.



Litter is expensive for the city to clean up. Do the right thing, clean up after yourself and recycle.

