

How many plastic straws does Singapore use?

The resident population consumes more than 2.2 million straws per day.

More than a third are from hawker centres
37%

Fast food outlets
20%

Novelty drink stalls
16%

Western-style coffee shops
14%

Restaurants
9%

Nightlife venues
5%

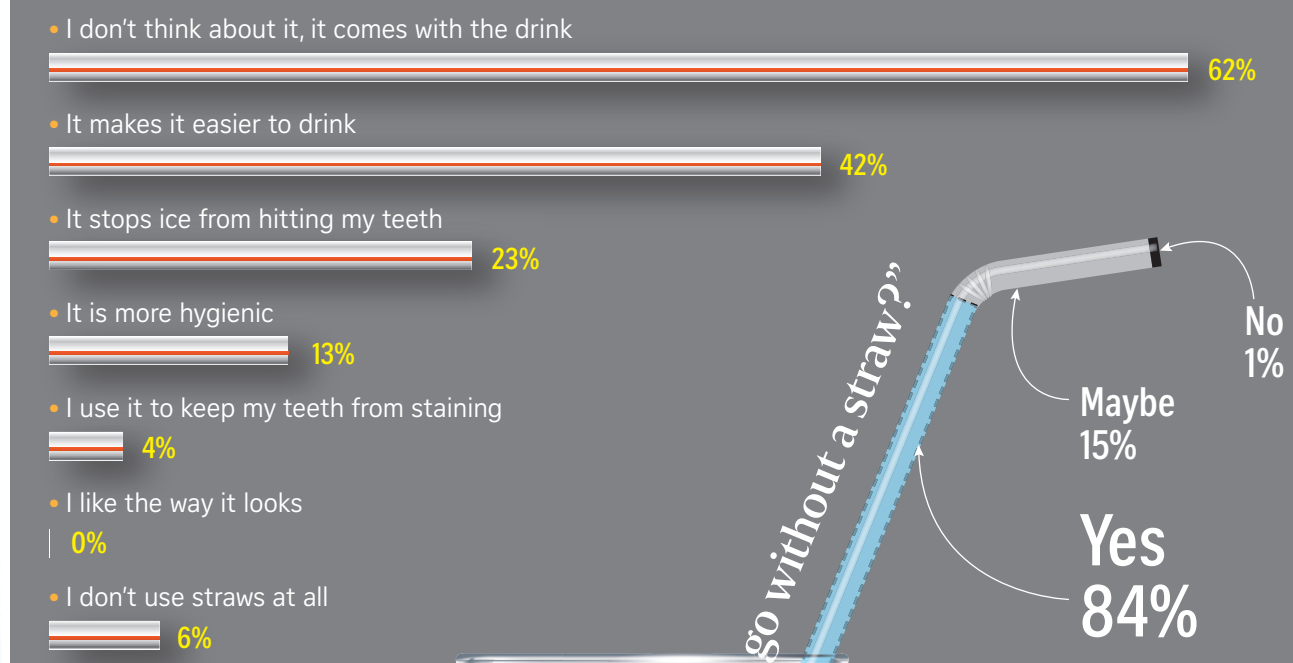
That's
25
straws
every second!

What's so bad about straws?

- Unless you are disabled or a small child, plastic straws are generally unnecessary.
- People use them for a few minutes but once discarded, it takes up to **200 years** for them to decompose. In the meantime, they pollute the oceans and harm marine life.

"Why do you use plastic straws?"

Percentage of respondents*



* Respondents were free to select top two reasons for why they use straws; therefore bars do not total 100 per cent and should be read individually e.g., "62% of respondents indicated that they use straws without thinking about it because it comes with the drink they ordered".

Based on a survey of 261 consumers. Estimates were adjusted to ensure the demographics of the sample matched Singapore's overall demographics (in terms of age, race and income). Components were adjusted for rounding errors.



What are the alternatives to plastic straws?

- **Paper straws:** They are compostable and biodegradable
- **Stainless steel straws:** More durable and come with a cleaning brush
- **Bamboo straws:** Durable and biodegradable, an upgrade on paper straws
- **Glass straws:** See-through, like standard plastic ones
- **Ice straws:** Handy moulds to create straws at home
- **Recyclable lids:** Don't suck, take a sip instead

Is this the last straw?

- Following the lead of several US cities, British Prime Minister Theresa May in April called on the nations of the British Commonwealth to consider banning plastic straws, coffee stirrers and plastic swabs with cotton on the end.
- McDonald's is currently testing paper straws in some UK locations and keeping all straws behind the counter, so customers have to ask for them.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged in June to ban all single-use plastics by 2022.

- Hilton announced in May that it will eliminate all plastic straws across its hotels in the Asia-Pacific region by the end of this year.
- United Airlines is the latest airline to get rid of plastic straws and cocktail picks and replace them with bamboo straws and picks starting in November. Both American Airlines and Alaska Airlines announced similar measures earlier this year.