

Marine Debris Awareness Training Guide for Restaurant Staff

Quick Facts on Marine Debris

Marine debris is any solid, human-made material that can make its way accidentally or intentionally into the water.

Most marine debris that is picked up on beach clean-ups consists of single-use plastics such as straws, food wrappers and cigarette butts.

Marine debris is harmful to humans and wildlife because it leaches chemicals into the water, can entangle animals and destroys the beauty of beaches and waterways.

Marine debris breaks down into smaller pieces over time, but it never completely goes away.



Skip the Straw

Skip the Straw started at the Boardwalk Family of Restaurants in 2017.

We offer paper straws only upon request.

The restaurant has saved 110,000 straws in two years.

Answering Customer Questions

Why is the restaurant skipping straws?

To protect the fish and wildlife that lives in Lake Erie, our drinking water, and our island community.

We also commonly find straws on beach clean-ups, so we are trying to prevent this common source of litter.

Can I still get a straw?

Yes, we still offer paper straws upon request.

Why does my drink still come in a plastic cup?

We started with straws and are working on phasing out other plastic items our restaurant uses, such as plastic takeout bags and plastic cups.

