



WHY GREAT LAKES FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS ARE SO IMPORTANT

An estimated 11 million metric tons of plastic waste enter our oceans each year. Most of this plastic is packaging and may include single-use items commonly served at restaurants. Great Lakes Friendly Restaurants say no to single-use plastic and reduce the amount of plastic entering our waterways by stopping the flow at the source. Here are some facts about single-use plastic items commonly offered at conventional restaurants:

- Straws and stirrers are the 7th most commonly found item polluting our beaches worldwide.
- Plastic bags don't biodegrade in our lifetimes and can kill marine life when they end up in the ocean.
- EPS foam is lightweight and easily breaks into bite-sized pieces, even when properly disposed of. In the environment, it can be mistaken for food and harm wildlife.
- EPS foam and other plastics contain toxic chemicals and additives.
- The US recycling collection rate of plastic bottles is less than 30%.

EASY WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By making simple changes like bringing one's own carryout containers or reusable water bottles and mugs, you too can choose to be Great Lakes friendly and help reduce our plastic footprint.



Support your local Great Lakes Friendly Restaurant today.

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