

About the Program

An estimated 11 million metric tons of plastic waste enter our oceans each year. Most of this plastic is packaging and single-use items commonly provided at restaurants. Ocean 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 one of the most commonly found items polluting our beaches worldwide.
- EPS foam products easily break into small pieces that litter the beach, poison marine species when ingested, and release toxic chemicals into your food.
- The 100 billion single-use bags used per year in the U.S. are easily replaceable with reusable and paper bags.
- Only about 5% of U.S. plastic waste gets recycled.

The Surfrider Foundation created the Ocean Friendly Restaurants program to respond to the plastic pollution crisis in our ocean and along our coasts. The goals of the program are to help restaurants reduce single-use plastic waste, eliminate the use of expanded polystyrene foam, and support sustainable practices that protect the marine environment through improved conservation efforts. The larger we grow our network of Ocean Friendly leaders, the more mainstream the concept of plastic-free becomes. Help protect the ocean and your local beach by supporting Ocean Friendly Restaurants near you.



Learn more:
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