

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii – Environmental Compliance Guide

PLASTIC STRAWS

GENERAL INFORMATION

The first plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. They came into widespread use after World War II and are found today in everything from cars to medical devices to food packaging. Their useful lifetime varies. Once disposed of, they break down into smaller fragments that linger for centuries.

The largest market for plastics today is for packaging materials. That trash now accounts for nearly half of all plastic waste generated globally; most of it never gets recycled or incinerated. Plastic straws are on the top ten items found on beaches and can kill wildlife.

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Plastics straws are NOT recyclable in your single-stream recycling bins and cannot be brought to the Army Recycle Center (ARC).

HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

- **Reduce:** Politely refuse plastic straws when offered. Invest in reusable bamboo or metal straws instead.
- **Trash:** Plastic single-use straws must be placed in the trash. They CANNOT be placed in your recycling bins or brought to the ARC.



For more info contact: DPW Environmental Solid Waste and Recycling Program at

(808) 787-0867