



Case Study: Disposable Straws

Straws are a common single-use item used by both sit-in and takeaway businesses. As part of the Ditching Disposables project, some businesses chose to reduce or eliminate their disposable straw usage.

The Cake & Candy Tearoom's simple switch

June's traditional tea room business 'The Cake & Candy Tearoom' had been keen to reduce waste and the cost of buying these items.

The tearoom took a simple but effective approach – only giving out straws when customers asked for them. This meant customers who needed them for medical reasons could still access them, but any excess was avoided.

This could be immediately implemented and only required some short conversations with staff, that were helped by the owner's hands on approach to the business.

The Boathouse's reusable switch

Businesses told us straws can be central to the look and experience of certain drinks. Switching from single-use straws doesn't need to take away from this. Food and Drink business 'The Boathouse' looked to make the switch from disposable straws in their cocktails, to reusable metal straws.

The reusable alternative doesn't take away from the customer experience or drink presentation, but still tackles single-use straw usage.

After one month
the tearoom had
gone from using 500
straws a month to

ZERO

with just this simple
approach.



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Plastic straws were included as part of the Single-Use Plastics Directive in 2022, meaning they were effectively banned with the exception of medical uses.

Don't switch, ditch!

Switching plastic straws for paper or cardboard alternatives still creates single-use waste. See the recommended steps below to reduce and eliminate disposable straws

Keeping straws behind the counter

Only giving straws when customers ask for them is a simple but effective way to reduce the number of straws used.

It can be implemented immediately and doesn't require anything additional being purchased. All it requires is staff to be aware and advised on how to implement in their role.



Purchasing reusable alternatives

For situations where straws are required as part the customer experience or drink presentation. Reusable alternatives made from metal, durable plastic, or other materials can be an effective way to eliminate disposable straw use without compromising on experience or presentation.

