

**VILLAGE OF RYE BROOK  
STRAWS UPON REQUEST LAW  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Summary of Law  
Effective June 1, 2019**

- Single-use plastic straws must be placed behind the counter and only available to customers upon request in all food service establishments
- Paper and other bio-degradable straws are not required to be behind the counter under this law
- Any covered business violating this local law is subject to a fine

**Q. Why do we need a straws-on-request law?**

A. The purpose of this law is to improve the environment in the Village of Rye Brook by discouraging the use of single-use plastic straws which are not recyclable or biodegradable. These straws often end up polluting waterways, clogging sewers, and injuring or even killing marine life. This legislation continues Rye Brook's goal to protect the environment by converting our "disposable" habit to a "reusable" one.

**Q. To whom does the legislation apply?**

A. Any food service establishment that provides single-use plastic beverage straws.

**Q. Will I still be able to use a straw if I need one?**

Yes, businesses that use plastic straws can still provide you with one should you need it. Be sure to ask your server or the person behind the counter and they will provide you with a straw.

**Q. Won't the law hurt business owners?**

A. Because this legislation doesn't ban plastic straws, businesses are not required to provide some sort of alternative. Reducing the number of straws used by shoppers may even reduce straw purchasing costs for business owners.

**Q. When does the legislation go into effect?**

A. The local law shall take effect on June 1, 2019 to allow retail establishments time to make appropriate preparations.

**Q. What is the penalty for non-compliance?**

A. Any covered store violating this law would receive a warning for the first violation, may be subject to a fine in the amount of \$150 for the second violation, \$200 for the third violation, and \$250 for the fourth and subsequent violations occurring within a one-year period.

**Q. I've heard that reusable straws may contain bacteria, so what do I do about that?**

A. Should you choose to bring your own reusable straw instead of opting for a plastic or other single-use straw, it is recommended you wash it after each use with warm, soapy water and dried in a vertical position. Many reusable straws are sold with a special pipe cleaner that can help clean the inside.