

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Marriott International to eliminate the use of plastic straws

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The phase out of straws begins immediately. Image credit: Marriott

By STAFF REPORTS

Hotel group Marriott International has become the latest in a long line of businesses to ban disposable plastic straws.

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Marriott will stop the use of plastic straws and stirrers at its 6,500 hotels around the world, potentially eliminating more than 1 billion straws worth of plastic waste over the next year. The move is part of a growing effort towards sustainability in general and the more specific campaign to end the use of plastic straws, which are used in abundance and never fully biodegrade.

"We are proud to be among the first large U.S. companies to announce that we're eliminating plastic straws in our properties worldwide," said Arne Sorenson, president and CEO of Marriott International, in a statement. "Removing plastic straws is one of the simplest ways our guests can contribute to plastic reduction when staying with us, something they are increasingly concerned about and are already doing in their own homes.

"We are committed to operating responsibly and with over one million guests staying with us every night we think this is a powerful step forward to reducing our reliance on plastics."

Eliminating waste

Plastic straws are an enormous contributor to plastic pollution, particularly in the world's oceans.

There has been a growing campaign around curtailing the use of plastic straws, which are used and disposed of quickly and in large numbers, contributing to the significant amount of plastic waste in the oceans today.

Straws have been targeted because they are a relatively easy thing to give up yet they have a significant impact on a large scale.

Marriott's shuttering of straws is consistent with this campaign and the hotel group's larger efforts to limit waste. For instance, Marriott also recently began replacing disposable plastic bottles of shampoo and conditioner in showers with built-in dispensers that use far less waste.

Marriott is not alone in this endeavor. Recently, the Peninsula Hotels instituted a ban on the use of disposable plastic straws, effective immediately.



The Peninsula Hotels chain has also banned straws. Image credit: Peninsula Hotels

The ban is part of the hotel's plan to transition away from all single use plastics by 2020. Straws may seem like a small thing, but at an institution such as a major luxury hotel, any bit of waste can add up to huge amounts of pollution ([see story](#)).

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