

Ditching Dining Disposables

You may already have everything you need to get started

Did you know? Each year, 32 million tons of plastic enter the environment with 8 million tons escaping into the world's oceans. The vast majority of plastic in the environment is from single-use disposable plastic products, mostly to-go food and beverage packaging -- in fact, **nearly half the plastic waste in the ocean is from single use items.** (Source: www.sloactive.com/plastic-pollution)

In addition to this direct environmental concern to ecosystems, oil and natural gas (which are non-renewable resources) are the major raw materials extracted for use in manufacturing plastic. There is also an environmental cost when transporting all that plastic.

Much of this has been part of the national conversation lately, especially straws. People "in the know" ditch the disposables when they eat on the go.

Here are some ideas to consider... no fancy equipment or expensive purchases required!

Let's All Suck a Bit Less

Ditching Straws



Straws are among the top 10 items found in beach clean ups. Americans alone discard more than 500 million *every day!** Tips:

- When ordering beverages say, "No straw please."
- Support businesses that do not offer plastic straws other than when requested for accommodating a disability.

*Source: www.ecocycle.org/bestrawfree/faqs

Let's Talk Liquid Assets

Ditching Drinkware



- Opt to dine in at establishments that offer reusable drinkware.
- Keep and carry reusable containers.
- Find reusable jars, bottles, and mugs at local thrift stores.

Let's Cut to the Chase

Ditching Cutlery



- Opt to dine in at restaurants that use washable utensils.
- Refuse utensils when ordering take-out.
- Create your own travel utensil kit using metal utensils banded together with a cloth napkin. Find these materials at home or at your local thrift store.

**TAKE
ACTION!**

What is one thing you will commit to changing today?
What is one alternative you are willing to change to today?

Join the movement to ditch disposables!



This guide was created by the Waste Prevention Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition in spring 2019. Printed on 100% recycled content paper. Printing sponsored by Republic Services and Shelton Turnbull. More guides and info about the Recycling Block Captain program at <http://tiny.cc/wpatcapt>.

