

## Malibu's Plastic and Polystyrene Bans



The City of Malibu (City) has always been a leader in environmental protection through its comprehensive bans on plastic products, which reduce pollution, protect marine life, and preserve our coastal environment. According to the California Coastal Commission, plastic cutlery and polystyrene containers ranks as the fifth most common items found during beach cleanups, with plastic straws and stirrers following closely as the sixth most common.

For nearly 20 years, City staff has diligently worked to craft policy and implement initiatives regarding single-use plastics and polystyrene materials. In 2005, the City prohibited polystyrene foam to-go food containers; in 2008, the City banned plastic shopping bags before it became a statewide prohibition in 2016; and in 2017, the City amended its polystyrene foam ban to include disposable dishware, packing materials, day-use coolers, and beach toys. Following the success of its polystyrene foam ban, the City introduced further measures to combat plastic pollution. As of 2018, the distribution and sale of single-use plastic or "bioplastic" straws, stirrers, and cutlery items is prohibited. This local law requires that non-plastic alternatives be made from biodegradable materials such as paper, bamboo, wood, and sugar cane, and can only be provided upon customer request.

City staff conducts quarterly site inspections at local restaurants through the Clean Bay Certified Restaurant Program. The program recognizes businesses that integrate sustainable and ocean-mindedness in their business practices. Requirements include compliance with pollution prevention measures and the City's plastic bans. The business community has provided positively to this program. In 2023, the City certified and provided "Clean Bay Certified" window decals to 48 businesses that met 100 percent of the program requirements. Additionally, staff conducts education and outreach through an annual Plastic-Free July social media campaign. It provides a Plastic Free Guideline for tips on reducing plastic in daily activities.

The primary goal of these bans is to prevent plastic debris from entering our beaches and waterways while protecting local wildlife. The City's efforts are a response to the significant environmental challenges posed by plastic waste. By promoting the use of biodegradable and reusable materials, the City encourages the community to adopt more sustainable practices, such as reducing waste in landfills by moving away from disposable single-use products.



To learn more about the City of Malibu's plastic ban efforts and access its Plastic Free Guideline, visit [www.malibucity.org/PlasticFree](http://www.malibucity.org/PlasticFree).