

# Why I'm Skipping the Straw

I'm in the middle of a unique challenge that is...challenging. I took a pledge to "Say NO to plastic straws."

Why would I do that? Because Americans use, and then throw away, millions of straws every day. And we just do it, we don't even think about it. But we should. Straws can't be recycled. Plus they can end up where we don't want them. Here are some photos of littered straws collected at beach cleanups

(<http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/pft/2017/1/3/the-problem-of-plastic-straws-and-how-each-of-us-can-make-a-difference>). And this is really gross... a turtle with a straw stuck in its nose.

<https://blueocean.net/take-no-plastic-straw-please-pledge/>

I took the challenge because I wanted to see just how difficult it is to go straw free. It's tough. Restaurants, bars, convenience stores all want to give me a straw whether I need one or not.

For the challenge I make a point to tell my server "No straw please" and I even found reusable straws that I bring with me. Here's what you can do. Take the No Straws Please pledge <http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/no-straw-please/> and then post your photo on social media with the hashtag #plasticstrawssuck Lots of other people are doing it too. Share a funny video of straw using celebrities being slapped by a sea creature.

Then join me in celebrating National Skip the Straw Day which is the fourth Friday in February. Until next time, accept the challenge my friends.

