

Inspection Checklist: Plastic Straws and Stirrers

Do you operate a food service establishment and offer customers single-use beverage straws, beverage stirrers, or beverage splash sticks?

Definition: A **food service establishment** includes, but is not limited to, full-service restaurants, fast food restaurants, cafés, delis, coffee shops, bars, nightclubs, grocery stores, food trucks or carts, cafeterias.

Definition: A **beverage straw** is a tube customers use to drink a beverage in a container.

Definition: A **beverage stirrer** is a device used to stir beverages.

Definition: A **beverage splash stick** is a device used to stop hot liquid from escaping a lidded cup.

Use this checklist to learn what our inspectors look for and help avoid violations. For your convenience, each Requirement includes the relevant section of law and/or rule, so you can refer to it for more information. The KEY below describes the legal citations and symbols used in this checklist.

KEY
NYC Code: NYC Administrative Code
§: Section

Requirement	Do you meet this requirement?
1 You may not give customers single-use beverage stirrers or splash sticks made of plastic. <i>Exception:</i> You may offer for retail sale plastic single-use beverage stirrers or splash sticks packaged in bulk by a manufacturer. NYC Code §16-410(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
2 You may only give customers a plastic single-use beverage straw if they request one. <i>Exception:</i> You may give customers compostable plastic beverage straws without a request. NYC Code §16-410(c)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
3 If a customer requests a plastic single-use beverage straw, you must provide it free of charge. NYC Code §16-410(c)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
4 If you have a self-serve station, you must display a sign that states: “Plastic straws available upon request.” Tip: The sign must be at least 2 inches by 7 inches in size. Tip: A self-serve station is a designated area or mechanical dispenser in a food service establishment where customers may help themselves to eating or drinking utensils, such as napkins, cups, knives, forks, straws, stirrers, or splash sticks. NYC Code §16-410(c)(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

For more information: **Visit** nyc.gov/BusinessToolbox | **Contact 311** (212) NEW-YORK (Outside NYC)

This document is provided for informational purposes only, is not exhaustive, and does not constitute legal advice. New York City businesses must comply with all relevant federal, State, and City laws and rules. Businesses are responsible for knowing and complying with current regulations that affect their business.