

How Food Courts Are Ruining The World



This NYF in Square One is one of the largest consumers of plastic utensils in the mall
Photo taken by Arham Ali on March 23 2019

Plastic is found too often in food courts!

***You will often find you holding two
or three!***

They make a lot of trash!

So you should not use them as much!

Malls in the GTA area and Toronto alone make a ton of trash. There are some problems with food courts, one of them being that consumers are using way too much plastic. Also, that those restaurants in food courts are giving non-renewable/non-recyclable materials such as plastic straws and utensils. These materials include stuff with microplastics in them or packaging, for example, shrink wrap to wrap food.

But, overall there is this one important thing that is making our landfills look like silver-ish mountains. It's *plastic, unquestionably*. Plastic gets used only once the majority of the time and is constantly getting found in the *landfill*. It's the thing that you eat with, what your food is packaged in, what your food is placed on and it's the thing what you drink from and it's all found in *food courts*. It's all *plastic too!* Let me tell you this, people just use these materials *once* and then *throw them out*. Imagine you are going to a food court to eat something and you don't have any utensils to eat your poutine or rice with, you probably have to get a plastic utensil since there is not the option of having a reusable utensil. Hundreds of people every day go to a food court to buy food and the majority of them get plastic materials such as utensils with their food. As plastic is offered by almost every restaurant in a food court you will properly walk away with two plastic utensils.

Why we should care?

The following reasons are just some of the reasons why you should care and take action on this plastic crisis. If we don't take action now it will harm the earth even more. You should stop using plastic or reduce it by a lot because if you don't, we will end up with landfills that have huge amounts of plastic. Plastic is harmful to the earth because we can't get plastics to

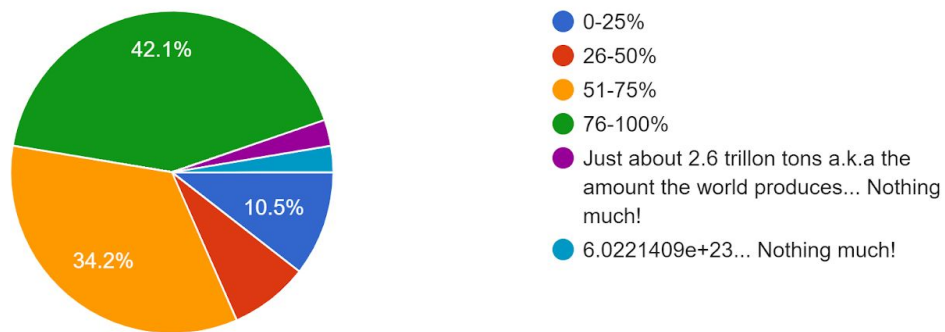
decompose very easily as other materials do. Another reason is that it is being used only once when you could have used it more than once and that is making our landfills even bigger.

How are we contributing to this problem?

After doing a survey and some research in my school, I figured out that 76-100% of stuff what my peers get from a food court is plastic not including the food.

How much of the stuff you get from a food court is plastic? Not including food.

38 responses



Made by using Google Forms

Customers of restaurants are using and taking too much plastic utensils. Usually, they will take a couple of knives, spoons and forks for one container of food! Let's look at New York Fries for example. After speaking with a manager of a New York Fries, I figured out that for every one regular sized cup of fries consumers take an average of 3-4 utensils with them.

There are consumers in this world you take two for everyone in their families so if you have 5 people in your family so they could share their food.

Even though some plastic utensils can be recycled some can't simply because it isn't cost-efficient. Some people like to throw non-recyclable plastic utensils in the recycling making the whole bag useless. Since the bag is no more recyclable it will go to the garbage. People who have a car and go to the food court will often fall their utensils outside either on the road or in the parking lot.

Store Owners/Restaurants/Food Courts

After interviewing malls such as Square One via email and a New York Fries owner via email. I learned that a lot of restaurants like to have plastic utensils rather than renewable items because plastic is cheaper. Also, they don't have to wash all their dishes if they use plastic materials cause there a thing called garbage. Since it costs more to have "clean materials", restaurants aren't willing to waste a couple of hundred of dollars to save the earth but that is not the case of some restaurant owners. Overall they are not in favour of not using plastic unless they are forced too.

Consumer/Customer/You

Customers who buy stuff are very much in favour of trying to reduce the number of plastic utensils because they are being educated by their friends of the amount of garbage they make. They want to take action to switch from plastic to green materials to make a difference but some don't.

Expert

After speaking to Natasha Daly whom I consider an expert in this area. She said that people want to use plastic because of its durability and lightweight. Well, people are coming closer to the end of the world because they just don't want to carry a little extra weight.

Solution

Yorkdale Mall would be a model for other malls as its food court doesn't use plastic because they invested in using glass plates. This reduced their amount of plastic by a lot. A way you can help is by reducing the amount of plastic stuff you use such as plastic utensils. Another way would be to educate your peers about this crisis. Another way is for malls to invest in reusable materials and you should convince them! So will you take action? That's the real question!

Sources:

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