

《奶茶店、咖啡厅的吸管越来越不环保，于是现在有可以吃的吸管了》



?????Stroodles

Roughly 8.5 billion plastic straws are used in the U.K. each year, but as a new ban takes effect next April, that number will shrink to zero.

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One startup is hoping to corner the market for alternative straws using an unlikely material: pasta.

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“It ticks all the boxes in terms of functionality as a plastic straw that everyone’s been used to growing up,” says Maxim Gelmann, founder of Stroodles, the startup.

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The straws, made by an Italian manufacturer that also produces regular pasta, are the same shape and size as a standard plastic straw.

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Unlike a paper straw, they don't taste like wet paper; they don't change the flavor of the drink. They last at least an hour, and longer in colder drinks.

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"Let's say you have your gin and tonic and then you refill it with ice, it goes even longer," Gelmann says.

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If you're nursing a drink for hours and the pasta eventually softens, you can choose to eat it (the raw straw is also edible, and Gelmann says that some people snack on them).

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A handful of other pasta-straw startups also exist, though Stroodles is hoping to differentiate itself with a smoother, more plastic-like texture and its branding.

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It's more expensive to make than a plastic straw, but at large volumes, it can compete with the cost of paper straws.

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Because of the coming ban, "no one really compares [us] with plastic anymore," Gelmann says. "They compare [us] with paper straw prices, which makes my argument much easier."

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Other alternatives, like bamboo or stainless steel, are more expensive and arguably a less elegant solution; some bars say that patrons don't trust the idea that stainless steel straws can be fully sanitized.

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Another option—a plastic-like edible straw made from seaweed—may be more of a competitor.

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Add pasta to your salads to bump up your fibre intake.

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The Chinese also eat a type of pasta as part of their staple diet.

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