

Dear Falmouth Resident,

Break Free From Plastic Pollution!

Let's admit right up front that during this pandemic using plastics is hard to avoid. But let's also look forward to a brighter day when safety concerns won't be front and center, a time when we can make a commitment to reduce single use plastics and break free from plastic pollution.

So, consider these suggestions when the time is right for you:

1. Return to using reusable shopping bags. Many supermarkets now allow customers to use their reusable shopping bags. This effort will go a long way toward eliminating those plastic bags that litter the roadways or get buried and burned at landfills.
2. Bring your own reusable produce bags. There are many USA-made cotton options available.
3. Carry a reusable water bottle.
4. Carry your own reusable fork, spoon, or knife.
5. Avoid plastic straws – carry your own metal straw.
6. When available, buy in bulk. Stores that offer items in bulk often make paper bags available; otherwise find out if the store will allow you to use your own bags or containers.
7. Use your own reusable mug at the cafeteria or support those coffee shops that support the use of reusable mugs.
8. Avoid buying items in clamshell packaging. That plastic is never recyclable.
9. Pack lunches in reusable containers.
10. Support restaurants that allow use of reusable take-out containers.

Remember that recycling is very worthwhile for metal, glass, and paper. But less than 10% of plastics are recycled; the rest is buried, burned, or tossed into the waterways. Reuse is possible. Please make a commitment to protecting our Earth from polluting plastics.