The first paper straw was patented in 1888 by Marvin Chester Stone of Washington D.C. It was rolled by hand from manila paper and coated with paraffin. Drinking straws were handmade until 1905 when Stone's company invented the first successful straw-making machine. Today drinking straws are made of paper or plastic.

Make a Paper Straw

Cut out a strip of paper 2 inches x 10 inches (5 cm x 25 cm). Holding the paper at one corner, start rolling it diagonally in a narrow cylinder shape until it is all rolled up. Then fasten the sides with tape.

YOU NEED

• Strip of paper