Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Foam Ordinance

Miguel Guerrero
Why Ban EPS Materials?
Support for EPS Ordinance
Food Service Ware Ordinance

San Francisco Food Service Ware Ordinance

Since June 2007, food vendors and restaurants in San Francisco have been required to use compostable or recyclable to-go containers. No Styrofoam™.

Who does this apply to?
Restaurants, delis, fast-food establishments, vendors at fairs, food trucks, and all City facilities and contractors must comply with this law.

How is this enforced?
Anyone can report non-compliance via an on-line anonymous form at www.sfenvironment.org/foodservice, or by calling (415) 355-3700. Kiosks and food service establishments may be issued fines of up to $500 for refusal to comply.

What products are acceptable?

- Compostable
- Recyclable

No Styrofoam

Compostable products include:
- Paper or other plant fiber, i.e. from sugarcane. Polystyrene film coating on paper is accepted.
- Plant-based bioplastics such as “PLA” must be labeled “Compostable,” meet compostability standards (ASTM D6400), and have a green band or green sticker to allow easy identification by the collector and the public.

Not acceptable:
- Products labeled “Biodegradable” are not compostable.

Recyclable products include:
- Aluminum foil or trays and plastic containers and lids.
- Not acceptable:
  - Plastic wrap, Styrofoam™, foam products are not compostable.

For a list of acceptable products:
Visit www.sfenvironment.org/foodservice or call (415) 355-3700.

SFEnvironment.org/foodservice
(415) 355-3700

Printed on 100% postconsumer recycled paper
Polystyrene Foam and the Food Service and Packaging Waste Reduction Ordinance

The sale of food service ware and packing materials made from polystyrene foam is prohibited in San Francisco.

Effective January 1, 2017

Resources

About:

- No More Polystyrene Foam (Placard, PDF)
- Polystyrene Foam Ban Factsheet (Factsheet and Visual Guide to Packaging, PDF)
Attention San Francisco Business Owners and Managers

NEW LAW TAKES EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2017

The City and County of San Francisco approved a new law, amending Chapter 16 of the Environment Code, prohibiting the sale or distribution of food service ware, packing materials, and other specified products that are made from polystyrene foam, commonly referred to as Styrofoam™.

Effective January 1, 2017, the Food Service and Packaging Waste Reduction Ordinance bans the sale or distribution of the following products made, in whole or in part, from polystyrene foam:

- Food ware (including cups, plates, clamshells, and other containers)
- Meat and fish trays (as of July 1, 2017), and egg cartons
- Packing materials* (including the sale of "peanuts" and shipping containers, or when used to package in San Francisco items for sale, unless packing materials were donated or reused and not sent to end user)
- Coolers, ice chests or similar containers*
- Pool or beach toys*
- Dock floats, mooring buoys, or anchor or navigational markers*
  * Unless they are wholly encased in a more durable material.

The ordinance also requires that packing materials and disposable food ware sold or distributed must be accepted as compostable or recyclable in San Francisco's collection programs.

Compliance

This ordinance applies to businesses that sell or distribute food ware, packing materials, and other specified products in San Francisco or package products for sale within San Francisco.

The San Francisco Department of Environment is responsible for enforcement of the Ordinance and is committed to working with businesses to ensure a smooth transition to alternative products. Penalties for non-compliance will be issued only as a last resort and may result in fines.
Education & Outreach Focused
Compliant Businesses
Non-compliant Businesses
EPS Material Findings

[Bar chart showing the number of businesses using different styrofoam products. The chart indicates that cups have the highest usage, followed by trays, peanuts, coolers, plates, and bowls.]
Press Coverage

San Francisco has just banned styrofoam.

San Francisco introduces extensive polystyrene ban.

Styrofoam bans have been implemented around the country, but this is the most extensive yet.
What's Next?