

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Ban Fact Sheet

On July 17th, the Santa Barbara City Council approved the Expanded Polystyrene Food Container and Product Ordinance which can be reviewed here: www.goo.gl/Hg3EQB. **EPS is commonly referred to as “styrofoam.”** EPS is a prevalent form of litter found in our storm drains, creeks, and beaches and negatively impacts the local environment.

When does the ban go into effect?

On January 1st, 2019.

Who does this affect?

- **Food & Beverage Providers** - any person located within the City that is a retailer of prepared food or beverages for public consumption including, but not limited to, any store, supermarket, delicatessen, restaurant, shop, caterer, or mobile food vendor.
- **City facilities or City-sponsored events**

What does it do?

- **Prohibits any food or beverage vendor from distributing expanded polystyrene.** This includes, but is not limited to: dine-in orders, to-go orders, and food or beverage products packaged in the City of Santa Barbara that do not meet the ordinance exemptions.
- **Prohibits any retailer from selling or otherwise providing any expanded polystyrene product which is not wholly encapsulated.** For instance, coolers made only from expanded polystyrene are banned but plastic coolers that have expanded polystyrene sealed within the plastic container are allowed.

What types of expanded polystyrene (EPS) products are prohibited by the ban?

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Foam cups, plates, clamshells, bowls, trays, etc.
- Foam coolers (coolers that have expanded polystyrene sealed within a plastic container are allowed)

What are some exemptions?

- Foods prepared or packaged outside the City and then sold within the City.
- Raw meat, fish, and other raw food trays.
- Products made from expanded polystyrene which are wholly encapsulated or encased by a more durable material. Examples include surfboards, life preservers, and craft supplies which are wholly encapsulated or encased by a more durable material, and coolers encased in hard plastic.
- **Financial Hardship or Practical Difficulty Exemption**
- **Public Health and Safety Exemption**

Contact Us

If you are currently using styrofoam products, the City of Santa Barbara Environmental Services Division is here to help your business find alternatives to reach compliance.

Please give us a call in **English (805) 564-5627** or **Spanish (805) 564-5677**, or email us at trashandrecycling@santabarbaraca.gov.