DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOAM CONTAINER BAN

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Effective January 1, 2016, it is illegal for District businesses and organizations that serve food or drink to use containers and other food service products made of expanded polystyrene, commonly known as Styrofoam™.

Examples of these businesses and organizations include:

restaurants • supermarkets • delis • bars

cafeterias • caterers • coffee shops

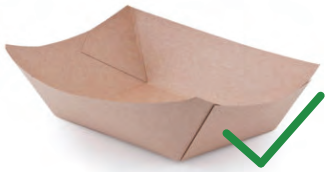
food trucks and street vendors • other organizations that serve food

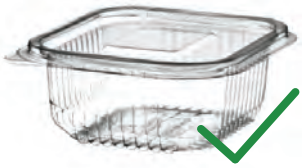
WHY BAN FOAM CONTAINERS?

Foam is easily blown by wind or washed by rain into storm drains and water bodies. As a result, foam litter is one of the most common types of trash found in the Anacostia River. Banning foam containers in the District is an important step towards ensuring that our waterways are fishable and swimmable.

FINDING ACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS

Compliant products include paper-based and rigid plastic containers. Food service products that are not made of foam are readily available for comparable prices. Find vendors that offer alternative and compliant products at ddoe.dc.gov/foam.





EXEMPTIONS

Certain foam products are exempt from the ban, including products packaged outside the District, products used to package raw meat or seafood, and products purchased in bulk for home use.

ENFORCEMENT

The District Department of the Environment will conduct regular inspections of regulated entities. Businesses and organizations that distribute banned foam products after January 1, 2016 may be fined.

FOAM FREE DC

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

(202) 645-6988 | ddoe.dc.gov/foam | #foamfreedc

DDOE.DC DDOE_DC DDOE_DC