



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOAM CONTAINER BAN

NEW RECYCLABLE AND COMPOSTABLE REQUIREMENTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Effective January 1, 2017, District businesses and organizations that serve food using disposable products must only use recyclable or compostable food service products. Food service products include plates, bowls, cups, and trays.

Examples of affected businesses and organizations include:

- restaurants • delis • cafeterias
- caterers • food trucks and street vendors
- faith-based organizations • other organizations that serve food

RECYCLABLE REQUIREMENT

Products are considered recyclable if they are:

- Made of rigid plastics #1-6
- Made entirely of pulp or paper
- Made of pulp or paper with a thin plastic coating

For a complete list of recyclable products, visit: doee.dc.gov/foam.



EXEMPTIONS

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

COMPOSTABLE REQUIREMENT

Products are considered compostable if they are made entirely of paper or pulp without a plastic coating or if they are certified compostable by the Biodegradable Products Institute.

For a list of certified products, visit: products.bpiworld.org.



FOAM BAN

There is an existing ban on food service products made of expanded polystyrene, commonly known as foam or Styrofoam™.

The Department of Energy and Environment actively enforces the foam ban and the food service product requirements.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(202) 671-0080 | doee.dc.gov/foam | #foamfreedc
#zerowastedc



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR