



MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION:
 DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 8.17
Polystyrene Foam Food & Beverage Service Ware

Information Fact Sheet

Overview

Effective January 1, 2019, food and beverage providers are prohibited from selling, vending, or serving food or beverages on/in disposable polystyrene (Styrofoam) food and beverage containers.

What is Polystyrene?

Polystyrene, commonly referred to by its trade name as “Styrofoam,” is a petroleum-based plastic derived from a styrene monomer. Because polystyrene is a lightweight material with insulation properties, it is commonly used to manufacture a variety of single-use disposable products, such as cups, takeout containers, and other food and beverage service ware.

Why is the City banning Styrofoam containers?

Styrofoam is a distinctive litter concern because it is lightweight, easily blown into streets and waterways, and floats in water until it reaches the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean. Additionally, it easily breaks apart into small pieces, is difficult to collect, and is often mistaken as food by birds, fish, and wildlife. The regulations requiring food and beverage providers to use reusable, recyclable, or compostable containers is intended to reduce the risk of harm to wildlife and improve water quality in the Concord waterways and beyond.

Who is affected?

All food and beverage providers including any vendor, business, store, organization, or group in Concord that sells, vends, or serves non-prepackaged food or beverages including, but not limited to:

- Restaurants;
- Catering companies;
- Mobile food trucks;
- Retail stores;
- Supermarkets;
- Convenience stores; and
- Cafeterias at schools, medical facilities, and after school programs.

What kind of containers are included in the ban?

The table below outlines Styrofoam containers that are banned and allowed in Concord:

Styrofoam Food & Beverage Containers	Banned	Allowed
Cups	X	
Bowls	X	
Plates	X	
Clamshells	X	
Serving trays	X	
Straws		X
Splash sticks		X
Stir sticks		X
Drink lids		X
Soup lids		X
Utensils		X
Egg cartons		X
Liquid cartons		X
Raw meat trays		X

- **Retail items** containing polystyrene foam that are sold in bulk or individually to customers and are not used to sell, vend, or serve food or beverages at the time of sale **are allowed, including:**
 - Foam ice chests;
 - Packaging peanuts;
 - Table cloths; and
 - Packaged polystyrene foam food service ware for individual sale.

If you have questions, please contact the Concord Planning Division at (925) 671-3152 or visit www.cityofconcord.org/styrofoam.