

CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS POLYSTYRENE BAN



ATTENTION RETAIL, SHIPPING, AND FOOD/DRINK-DISPENSING (CAFETERIAS, COFFEE SHOPS, TAKE-OUT FOOD) BUSINESSES!

Effective January 1, 2022, sales and distribution of polystyrene are prohibited in the City of Thousand Oaks. Visit toaks.org/biz for more information.


WHAT IS PROHIBITED?

Sales and distribution of single-use rigid and expanded polystyrene products (retail sales)

- Providing or using single-use rigid or expanded polystyrene for on-premises or take-out food and beverages (food providers)
- Automatic distribution of plastic beverage straws and cutlery inside food establishments (food providers)


WHY IS THERE A BAN?

Plastic straws and polystyrene are non-recyclable petroleum products that do not biodegrade. Expanded polystyrene (commonly called Styrofoam™) easily breaks apart and is an environmental contaminant that litters streets, beaches and the ocean, causing harm to wildlife when ingested.



WHAT IS POLYSTYRENE?

Polystyrene includes rigid polystyrene used to make disposable cutlery and clamshell containers and Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) used for foam cups, plates, clamshell food containers, and recreational items like bodyboards and ice chests. Polystyrene items are usually labeled with a recycling code PS or #6.



EXAMPLES OF BANNED ITEMS

- Expanded polystyrene – cups, bowls, plates, takeout containers, trays, packaging peanuts, ice chests, beach and pool toys (unless they are fully encased within a more durable material)
- Rigid polystyrene – cutlery, cups, bowls, plates, takeout containers, and trays

COMPLIANCE

Please use this opportunity to deplete any existing stocks of these materials and prepare for 2022. Written warnings and citations may be issued for noncompliance beginning January 1, 2022.

For more information about the ordinance or to apply for a waiver, please visit www.toaks.org/biz, email us at GoGreen@toaks.org, or call 805-449-7283

GUIDE TO CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS POLYSTYRENE BAN



FOOD AND BEVERAGE VENDORS

(includes restaurants, cafeterias, food trucks, grocery store food counters, etc.)

PROHIBITIONS:

- All polystyrene products (#6 or PS)
- Distribution of plastic straws and utensils except by request or as set out at customer self-serve locations, or with take-out food.

EXEMPTIONS:

- Foods packaged outside the City
- Raw meat and fish trays

WHAT CAN I USE?

Contact your supplier. There are many alternatives including aluminum; paper and 100% fiber-based products; and plastics (clear or white) 1, 2, and 5.

For alternative products ideas, refer to Athens Services' handout "Product Recommendations For Disposable Food Serving-Ware."

For disposal and recycling instructions, visit CanIRecycleMy.com.



RETAIL SALES & SHIPPING/PACKAGING OUTLETS

PROHIBITIONS:

- Expanded polystyrene packing peanuts
- Single-use rigid or expanded foodware, including foam cups, plates, clamshells and/or utensils

EXEMPTIONS:

- Reuse of shipping materials
- Expanded polystyrene fully encased in a durable material (e.g. hard plastic shell)