

Expanded Polystyrene (Styrofoam™) Food Service Products Ban

As of **July 1, 2020**, Maryland joins other states in the country to ban Styrofoam in food service businesses, grocery stores and schools. Items made of expanded polystyrene (ex.: cups, plates, bowls, trays, egg cartons, etc.), commonly known as Styrofoam™ will be prohibited. This law was enacted by the Maryland General Assembly (Chapter 597, Acts of 2019) to help protect the Chesapeake Bay and other bodies of water from improperly discarded polystyrene products that can last in the environment for a long time and harm our marine life.



In preparation, the Health Department is notifying all food service businesses and schools to **find an alternative container that is compostable or recyclable by July 1, 2020**. You can visit the Maryland's Department of the Environment (MDE) website at:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Expanded-Polystyrene-Food-Service-Products-Ban.aspx> for more information and a list of alternatives to the expanded polystyrene products.

Beginning October 1, 2020, local government and the health department will work with MDE on observed violations and any regulatory enforcement that may occur.

Should you have questions, contact MDE's Land and Materials Administration by john.sullivan1@maryland.gov or phone at **410-537-3314**.