

## City of South Portland Polystyrene Foam Ban Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Why is the City of South Portland banning polystyrene foam packaging?**

- There is not an economically feasible way to recycle polystyrene foam packaging in our region.
- When introduced to the environment, polystyrene foam breaks into smaller non-biodegradable pieces that harm/kill marine life and other wildlife.
- Alternatives to polystyrene are readily available.

### **What packaging products are made from polystyrene foam?**

- Polystyrene foam, as known by its brand name Styrofoam®, is often used to make cups, bowls, plates, trays, clamshell containers, meat trays, egg cartons, and coolers.

### **Who does this ordinance affect?**

- Food packagers: Anyone within South Portland who places meat, eggs, bakery products, or other food in packaging materials for the purpose of retail sale of these products.
- Establishments preparing food: Restaurants, cafeterias, food trucks, convenience stores, shops, grocery stores, delicatessens, or other vendors located within South Portland offering prepared food for retail sale.
- Retailers: Any vendors that selling tangible personal property at retail are prohibited from selling polystyrene foam food or beverage containers.

### **What does this mean to affected establishments?**

- No food packager or retail establishment in South Portland shall serve or sell prepared food and no food packager shall package meat, eggs, bakery products, or other food in polystyrene foam food or beverage containers.
- The City of South Portland shall not use, purchase, or otherwise acquire polystyrene foam food or beverage containers.
- Parties who contract with the City shall not use polystyrene food or beverage containers at any City facilities or on projects within the City that are funded (in whole or in part) by the City.
- Retailers may not offer polystyrene foam products such as cups, plates, trays, or coolers for sale.

### **Are there any exemptions?**

- The sale and packaging of **raw** seafood is exempt from this ordinance. Cooked seafood is **not** exempt.

### **What happens if the ordinance is violated?**

- For the first violation in a one year period, the violator receive a fine not exceeding \$250.
- For the second and each subsequent violation in a one year period, the violator will receive a fine not exceeding \$500.

### **When does the ordinance go into effect?**

- The ordinance goes into effect on March 1, 2016.