

About the Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Ordinance

WHEN?

This Ordinance will take effect on August 9, 2016.

WHAT IS BEING PROHIBITED?

Expanded Polystyrene (#6) food service ware commonly known as Styrofoam™, as well as other Expanded Polystyrene products not encapsulated or encased in a more durable material.



WHO IS AFFECTED?

All businesses within Arroyo Grande, including supermarkets, delicatessens, restaurants, retail, food vendors, and caterers that serve prepared food to-go..

WHY?

- Expanded polystyrene is non-renewable, non-biodegradable, non-recyclable, and typically ends up in landfills or as litter in waterways and is costly to remove.
- Expanded polystyrene can break into pieces, which are often mistaken for food and ingested by wildlife.

EXEMPTIONS?

Exemptions are provided for certain projects, including:

- Foods prepared or packaged outside the City.
- Foam trays for raw meat, fish, and other raw food.
- Products made from Expanded Polystyrene but wholly encapsulated by a more durable material, such as surfboards, craft supplies, and coolers encased in hard plastic.

WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR NOT COMPLYING?

Any violation of the provisions of the Ordinance is subject to the penalty provisions as provided in Chapter 1.16 of the Arroyo Grande Municipal Code. Repeated violations may be charged as a misdemeanor and/or enforced through civil action.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE CITY ORDINANCE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

<http://www.arroyogrande.org/567/Expanded-Polystyrene-Regulation>

or call the Planning Intern Patrick Holub at (805) 473-5447.

EXAMPLES OF COMPOSTABLE AND RECYCLABLE FOOD WARE



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

City of San Jose – Alternatives to EPS Food Containers –
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/46910>

Californians Against Waste – Polystyrene and Other Non-Recyclable Plastics –
<http://www.cawrecycles.org/polystyrene-and-other-non-recyclable-plastics>

Biodegradable Products Institute - <http://www.bpiworld.org/>