

Styrofoam Ban Bill

AN ACT Relating to certain expanded polystyrene products SB6213(Das) / HB2429(Duerr)

Problems with styrofoam

Plastics use up resources

Expanded polystyrene foam (i.e., styrofoam) items are made from finite, nonrenewable natural **gas and oil resources**. We use these items for a short time and then discard them.

Plastic pollution impacts wildlife

Expanded polystyrene foam frequently winds up as litter or ends up polluting our marine environment. Foam blows into our **waterways and the ocean**, clogs the stomachs of wildlife, and breaks down into smaller pieces that also get eaten. They break up but do not readily biodegrade, lasting for years.

Expanded polystyrene foam food service products are mostly not recyclable

It is very difficult to recycle styrofoam food service products because it is difficult to remove food waste. The bulky foam form is not accepted in curbside recycling programs.

Many cities and 3 states have passed foam bans

Many cities across the US and 3 states have already banned expanded polystyrene foam products. More are considering. Many countries have passed laws to enact bans.



What this bill does

- **Prohibits sale and distribution**, beginning June 1, 2022, of expanded polystyrene foam **food service products, coolers, and loose fill packaging material (i.e., peanuts)** in or into Washington.



- **Includes:** food containers, plates, clamshell-style containers, and hot and cold beverage cups
- **Exempt items:**
 - Coolers used for **drugs or medical devices**.
 - Packaging for raw, uncooked, or butchered meat, fish, poultry, or seafood, vegetables, or egg cartons designed to hold more than 12 eggs
- **Establishes the intent** of the legislature to prohibit all expanded polystyrene products by January 1, 2025.

It is time to address plastic pollution in Washington