



September 2018

Notice of Upcoming Ban on Certain Styrofoam Products and Information about Public Workshop

Starting on January 1, 2019, Food and Beverage Providers doing business in Concord will no longer be allowed to serve food and beverages using disposable foam polystyrene (Styrofoam) products. You can play an important role in diverting waste from the landfill, reducing the risk of harm to wildlife, and improving water quality in Concord's waterways!



The ban does **not** apply to items such as:

- prepackaged foods (such as those that hold ramen noodles);
- straws;
- egg cartons;
- raw meat trays;
- ice chests;
- packaging peanuts;
- packaged polystyrene foam food service ware for retail sale

Other items that are not banned include: stir sticks, soup lids, drink lids, utensils, and tablecloths.



What do I use instead?

There are many types of **reusable, recyclable or compostable** products designed to hold and serve food and beverages. Please see www.cityofconcord.org/styrofoam for more information.

Does the ban apply to me?

YES, if your business includes:

- a restaurant
- a supermarket with retail food service
- a cafeteria
- a food truck
- sidewalk vending
- catering

If you conduct business in Concord and serve non-prepackaged food or beverages, the ban applies to your business. Other types of food and beverage providers subject to the ban include childcare facilities, hospitals, City facilities and events, and schools.

Join us at our upcoming workshop to learn more!

On **Monday, October 29, 2018 from 9:30 – 11:00am** in the **Concord City Council Chamber at 1950 Parkside Drive**, the City of Concord, the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, the Todos Santos Business Association, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Monument Impact will host a workshop to provide information and to answer questions about the new rules, as well as guidance on alternative food and beverage service products that are reusable, recyclable or compostable. Join us!

Spanish-speaking staff will be available.



MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION:
 DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 8.17
Polystyrene Foam Food & Beverage Service Ware

Information Fact Sheet

Overview

Effective January 1, 2019, food and beverage providers are prohibited from selling, vending, or serving food or beverages on/in disposable polystyrene (Styrofoam) food and beverage containers.

What is Polystyrene?

Polystyrene, commonly referred to by its trade name as “Styrofoam,” is a petroleum-based plastic derived from a styrene monomer. Because polystyrene is a lightweight material with insulation properties, it is commonly used to manufacture a variety of single-use disposable products, such as cups, takeout containers, and other food and beverage service ware.

Why is the City banning Styrofoam containers?

Styrofoam is a distinctive litter concern because it is lightweight, easily blown into streets and waterways, and floats in water until it reaches the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean. Additionally, it easily breaks apart into small pieces, is difficult to collect, and is often mistaken as food by birds, fish, and wildlife. The regulations requiring food and beverage providers to use reusable, recyclable, or compostable containers is intended to reduce the risk of harm to wildlife and improve water quality in the Concord waterways and beyond.

Who is affected?

All food and beverage providers including any vendor, business, store, organization, or group in Concord that sells, vends, or serves non-prepackaged food or beverages including, but not limited to:

- Restaurants;
- Catering companies;
- Mobile food trucks;
- Retail stores;
- Supermarkets;
- Convenience stores; and
- Cafeterias at schools, medical facilities, and after school programs.

What kind of containers are included in the ban?

The table below outlines Styrofoam containers that are banned and allowed in Concord:

Styrofoam Food & Beverage Containers	Banned	Allowed
Cups	X	
Bowls	X	
Plates	X	
Clamshells	X	
Serving trays	X	
Straws		X
Splash sticks		X
Stir sticks		X
Drink lids		X
Soup lids		X
Utensils		X
Egg cartons		X
Liquid cartons		X
Raw meat trays		X

- **Retail items** containing polystyrene foam that are sold in bulk or individually to customers and are not used to sell, vend, or serve food or beverages at the time of sale **are allowed, including:**
 - Foam ice chests;
 - Packaging peanuts;
 - Table cloths; and
 - Packaged polystyrene foam food service ware for individual sale.

If you have questions, please contact the Concord Planning Division at (925) 671-3152 or visit www.cityofconcord.org/styrofoam.