

Polystyrene Food Ware: A Threat to Santa Clara Waterways and the Bay



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What is Polystyrene?





Why Ban Polystyrene?

**Polystyrene foam litters our waterways
and threatens Bay wildlife**

- Light weight & easily scattered
- Second most abundant form of beach debris in California
- Ingested by fish, birds, and other wildlife
- Suffocates wetlands





Why Ban Polystyrene?

Polystyrene foam is an ongoing problem for local governments

- Cities spend millions annually to clean public areas
- Natural recreation areas around the Bay have high economic value





Why Ban Polystyrene?

Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission: ban polystyrene food ware by July 2012

- Ban at County/City facilities and events **by January 1, 2012.**
- Ban at all food vendors **by July 1, 2012.**
- Require only containers accepted and processed through the City's/County's landfill diversion program **by January 1, 2013**





Focus on Food Ware

RECYCLING IS NOT AN OPTION

- **NO** market
- **NO** curbside collection
- **MUST** be clean





Regional Trend

Over 20 Bay Area jurisdictions have passed polystyrene food ware bans



- Over 50 jurisdictions statewide
- Rising consumer demand for Green Businesses
- High quality and affordable alternatives



Thank you!

Municipal Resources:

<http://www.savesfbay.org/municipal-resources>

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