



Starting **July 1, 2016**, polystyrene (commonly referred to as Styrofoam™), polystyrene loose fill packaging (also known as "packing peanuts") and other foam articles are not permitted for sale or use in Prince George's County.

Why the Ban?

To reduce the amount of polystyrene waste entering the landfill and local waterways, the County is requiring the use of non-foam food packaging products that are environmentally-friendly and for everyone to be "Foam Free in PGC."

Examples of Single-Use Foam Packaging that Cannot be Sold or Used

- Food containers
- Hot and cold beverage cups

The Law Does Not Apply To:

- Food and beverages filled and sealed in foam containers prior to receipt by the food service business
- Foam packaging for raw, uncooked or butchered meat, fish, poultry or seafood for off-premises consumption

What Can be Used or Sold?

There are many non-foam food packaging alternatives. Some examples include recyclable and compostable containers that are rigid plastic or paper-based. [View a list of vendors that offer alternative and compliant products.](#)

Who is Affected?

Businesses located in Prince George's County that sells or uses foam products to provide food or beverages at any time is regulated by the ban.

- Cafes and delicatessens
- Cafeterias
- Coffee shops
- Convenience stores
- Discount stores
- Dollar stores
- Fast food restaurants
- Food carts or trucks
- Full and limited-service restaurants
- Pack and ship stores
- Retailers and wholesalers selling disposable dishware, storage containers, packing materials and polystyrene products
- Shippers
- Supermarkets and grocery stores

Enforcement

Warnings will be issued for the first violation.

A \$250 fine will be issued for the second violation and a \$1,000 fine for the third violation within a 12 month period.

Each day a violation exists is a **separate** offense.

Questions?

For more information, contact Aaron Herbert at (301) 883-6210