

Polystyrene Info

✓ Polystyrene ≠ Styrene

Polystyrene and styrene are different substances. Although polystyrene is made from styrene, equating polystyrene with styrene is like equating a diamond with carbon. They're not the same substance.

✓ FDA: Polystyrene Foam is Safe

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration, the agency charged with scientific review and approval of food contact applications, has determined for more than 50 years that polystyrene is safe for use in foodservice products.

✓ Polystyrene is Being Recycled

Polystyrene foam foodservice packaging is being recycled in many communities across the country. For example, more than 20 percent of Californians can recycle polystyrene foam in curbside programs.

✓ National Toxicology Program: "Let me put your mind at ease ..."

NTP Director Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., was quoted widely in Associated Press reports in June 2011: "Let me put your mind at ease right away about polystyrene foam*...In finished products, certainly styrene is not an issue."

✓ Polystyrene Foam Foodservice = 1.5% of Litter

While all litter should be reduced, polystyrene foam foodservice packaging makes up 1.5 percent of litter, according to a May 2012 national report by environmental consulting firm Environmental Resources Planning.



For further information:
Plasticfoodservicefacts.com

* Original quote used the term "Styrofoam". STYROFOAM™ is a registered trademark of The Dow Chemical Company that represents its branded building material products, including rigid foam and structural insulated sheathing, and more. The brand name often is misused as a generic term for polystyrene foam foodservice packaging.