



**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE**

910 Calle Negocio, Suite 100

San Clemente, CA 92673

[www.sccleanocean.org](http://www.sccleanocean.org)

## **NEWS BULLETIN**

# **Polystyrene Foam Food Service Ware Ban STARTS JULY 1, 2011**



The City of San Clemente has joined a number of other California cities in banning the use of expanded polystyrene single-use food service ware at food service businesses within the City.

The ban on expanded polystyrene food service ware is an expansion of an already existing City policy and is intended to help the City's efforts in minimizing the amount of expanded polystyrene litter found along the beaches and in our watersheds. Strong support from the community has been expressed for this ordinance.

**San Clemente's ordinance goes into effect on July 1, 2011** and requires businesses to transition to the use of other types of containers as outlined in this guide. Please use the information found here to help you in this effort.

Thank you!

The City of San Clemente  
Environmental Programs

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is expanded polystyrene?

Expanded polystyrene, also known by its trademark name “Styrofoam”, is a foamed plastic material commonly used for single-use disposable food service containers such as cups, plates, and “clam-shell” boxes. Expanded polystyrene is identified by the recycling symbol #6.

## Why did the City ban expanded polystyrene?

Expanded polystyrene is a non-biodegradable material that tends to break up into very small pieces and disperse widely when littered due to its lightweight nature. Local beach cleanup volunteers have consistently reported finding small pieces of expanded polystyrene on San Clemente beaches in numbers that are often considered “too numerous to count”. Those items collected that are still in tact are often cups or containers of the type provided by local food establishments. The City banned single-use expanded polystyrene food service ware in response to community requests and concern over long term environmental impacts.

## When does the ordinance take effect?

July 1, 2011.

## Who must comply with the new ordinance?

Those who are required to comply with the new ordinance include restaurants, retail food vendors, and mobile food preparation units within the City of San Clemente. The ordinance also encompasses City facilities, City-managed concessions, City-sponsored or co-sponsored events, City permitted events and all franchisees, contractors, and vendors doing business with the City.



## What types of containers are banned?

This ordinance applies to expanded polystyrene packaging (foamed polystyrene #6) used for the purposes of food service that is controlled by or at the discretion of San Clemente businesses. It does not apply to foods that are packaged outside of the City.

## What types of containers are acceptable to use?

Any material other than expanded or foamed polystyrene is acceptable. Examples would include; any other plastic besides expanded polystyrene, paper, aluminum, or compostable material.

## Where can I get help finding alternative products or get more information?

The City has compiled a list of vendors that provide alternatives food service ware products. The list can be found online or provided by request via e-mail or phone through the contact information below.

## Are there exemptions?

The ban doesn't apply to raw, butchered meats, fish and/or poultry sold from a butcher case or similar retail appliance. Also, a food vendor may be eligible for a temporary undue hardship exemption – see the website below for specific criteria.

## What are the penalties for non-compliance?

The first violation will result in a written warning, followed by fines ranging from \$100 to \$500 for additional violations.

**Please note that the vendor list is provided for informational purposes only. It does not include all vendors and the City does not make any specific recommendation or warranty about the quality of any vendor's products or services.**

For more information:

[www.sccleanocean.org](http://www.sccleanocean.org) - click on Styrofoam Ban

eMail: [cleanwater@san-clemente.org](mailto:cleanwater@san-clemente.org)

Call: (949) 361-6143

