

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Polystyrene Foam Ban

Also known (incorrectly) as Styrofoam®

Why is the City of Saco banning polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®) packaging?

- When introduced to the environment, polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®) breaks into smaller non-biodegradable pieces that harm or kill marine life and other wildlife
- Alternatives to polystyrene (Styrofoam®) are readily available
- There is no way to recycle polystyrene foam packaging in our area

What packaging products are made from polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®)?

- Polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®) is often used to make cups, bowls, plates, trays, meat trays, egg cartons, and seafood containers.

Who does this ordinance affect?

- Food Packagers:
Anyone within Saco who places meat, eggs, bakery products, or other food in packaging materials for the purpose of retail sale of those products
- Establishments preparing food:
Restaurants, cafeterias, food trucks, convenience stores, shops, grocery stores, delicatessens or other vendors located within Saco offering prepared food for retail sale.

What does this mean to affected establishments?

- No food packager or retail establishment in Saco shall serve or sell prepared food and no food packager shall package meat, eggs, bakery products or other food in polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®) containers.
- The City of Saco shall not use, purchase or otherwise acquire polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®) food or beverage containers.
- Parties who contract with the City shall not use polystyrene (Styrofoam®) food or beverage containers at any city facility or on projects within the City that are funded (in whole or in part) by the City.
- Retailers may not offer polystyrene foam (Styrofoam®) products such as cups, plates, trays or coolers for sale.

Are there any exemptions?

- The sale and packaging of **raw** seafood is exempt from this ordinance. Cooked seafood is **not** exempt.

What happens if the ordinance is violated?

- First violation in a one year period is a warning
- Second violation in a one year period is a \$250 fine
- Each subsequent violation in a one year period is a \$500 fine

When does this ordinance go into effect?

- October 19, 2016