

What You Need to Know About the Dana Point Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Food Service Ware Ban

As a coastal city, Dana Point has a strong interest in protecting the ocean, local beaches, and marine environment, which contribute to the unique quality of life enjoyed by the community. On February 21, 2012, the City Council voted to ban the use of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) disposable food service ware within Dana Point (DPMC 6.46). The ban on EPS, also known as Styrofoam™, food service ware



The ban on EPS will help preserve our pristine coastline.

will help decrease the amount of litter found along our streets, beaches, and ocean waters and will reduce the adverse health impacts to birds and sea life, while improving water quality.

The City of Dana Point has joined nearly 50 other California cities in banning the use of expanded polystyrene single-use food service ware at

food businesses within the City. The EPS Ordinance reflects Dana Point's proactive approach to coastal stewardship by implementing policies that maintain our legacy as the most beautiful, desirable, and safest coastal community in which to live, work, visit, play or conduct business.

Frequently Asked Questions

When does the ordinance take effect and who must comply?

The ordinance took effect October 1, 2012 for all food vendors and food service providers as well as all City facilities and operations, City-managed concessions, City-sponsored events, City permitted events and all franchisees, contractors, vendors (including sidewalk vendors) within the City of Dana Point.

The ban applies to all food vendors and food service providers in Dana Point.

Why did the City ban non-recyclable plastic & polystyrene?

EPS is not biodegradable, and remains in the environment indefinitely. EPS is often ingested by wildlife that mistake it for food and perish.

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. This plastic waste causes significant damage to the beach and marine environment. EPS is not biodegradable thus EPS litter remains indefinitely in the environment and can be ingested by marine animals and birds that mistake EPS for pieces of food. While EPS is technically "recyclable" there is, to date, no meaningful recycling of EPS due to high food contamination rates and a very weak market to clean, handle and process the material.



City of Dana Point Public Works & Engineering Services
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What types of containers are banned?

The ordinance refers to expanded polystyrene (EPS or Styrofoam™) and clear and rigid polystyrene, both of which are marked with the symbol #6 on the bottom, that are intended for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-eat food or beverages. Examples include cups, plates, trays, bowls, and hinged or lidded containers. This ordinance does not include single-use disposable straws and utensils.

What types of containers are acceptable to use?

- Aluminum
- Coated or uncoated paper, ideally made with post-consumer recycled content
- Any other plastic besides expanded polystyrene
- Compostable products



Are there exemptions?

Reusable EPS coolers and ice chests that are intended for reuse are exempt.

What are the penalties for non-compliance?

The first violation will result in a written warning that could be followed by fines ranging from \$100 to \$250 for additional violations.

Where can I find the City's Ordinance and the staff report related to the EPS ban?

Please visit www.danapoint.org/recycle to view both of these documents.

Where do I find acceptable service containers?

Contact or visit your sales representative to inquire about non-EPS serve ware. If they do not carry them, request that they begin to do so. As a service to the community, the City has compiled a list of suppliers of acceptable food service containers. The list can be found online at www.danapoint.org/recycle or provided to you via email or phone request through the contact information noted below.

Please note that the vendor list is provided is for informational purposes only. It does not include all vendors and the City of Dana Point does not make any specific recommendation or warranty about the quality of any vendor's products or services. Please contact the City of Dana Point (information noted below) for any additions or corrections.

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact Jennifer Anderson in Public Works & Engineering Services at (949) 248-3571 or janderson@danapoint.org.



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