

MIAMI-DADE PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACES

Polystyrene Ban

Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

Pursuant to Miami-Dade County Resolution No. R-501-16, effective July 1, 2017 all products made from polystyrene (Styrofoam™) will be banned from County parks and beaches. This includes but is not limited to plates, cups, bowls, trays and hinged or lidded containers.

FAQs

When does the ban take effect?

The ban is effective July 1, 2017.

Who is affected by this ban?

The ban applies to any person or County vendor, food establishment or CBO.

How do I know if something is made out of polystyrene?

Polystyrene food-service ware or packaging is marked with the plastic resin code #6 (PS) somewhere on the product or on the box containing the product.

Why is Polystyrene prohibited?

Polystyrene is made from styrene, a petroleum byproduct which is nonrenewable and a heavily polluting resource. Styrene is a known neurotoxin that is classified as reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen (meaning there is significant evidence linking styrene to human cancers.) Polystyrene is not recyclable and once discarded persists in the environment for years.

One form of polystyrene is used to make the foam cups, plates, and clamshells that are sometimes referred to as Styrofoam. Other forms of polystyrene are used to make certain clear or solid plastic cups, lids, straws, utensils, as well as other food-service ware.

What types of containers are allowed in Parks?

- *Aluminum*
- *Recyclable Plastics*
- *Coated and Uncoated Paper*
- *Compostable plant fiber products, such as Bagasse, are now made from corn, sugar cane, bamboo, palm, grass and other rapidly compostable resources.*