



Dear Glendale Merchant,

The City of Glendale is preparing to adopt an ordinance regulating the use, sale, and distribution of certain polystyrene products. This includes coolers, egg cartons, foodware, packaging materials, and polystyrene fish, meat & produce trays.

The City is committed to providing a clean and livable space for all. Although useful, plastics do present environmental issues, mainly in the form of litter. The report **Plastic Waste in Los Angeles County** identifies harm to the marine environment from plastic litter, where plastic pollution originates from inland and enters the marine environment via stormwater channels and other conveyances. The report also identifies the following negative impacts:

- Plastic is the primary source of land litter in California. It makes up 7 of the top 10 litter products found on beaches with food service ware ranking fourth highest.
- Plastic litter infiltrates City drainage systems and accrues in landfills with a lifespan likely lasting centuries.
- Urban runoff channels millions of tons of debris into oceans annually, threatening invaluable natural habitats and marine life.
- Coastal cities incur significant economic costs because of litter cleanups and prevention efforts.
- Polluted shorelines lead to indirect costs to communities, including losses in tourism revenue and damage to the recreational / aesthetic values of the coastal environment.
- Traditional petroleum-based plastics rely on nonrenewable energy sources for production and recovery, contributing to an increasing global carbon footprint throughout their lifecycle.
- Polystyrene products are notoriously difficult to recycle and a significant amount eventually ends up in landfills.

### **What are the requirements of the City's proposed Polystyrene Waste Reduction Regulations?**

1. Under the proposed regulations, no food or beverage providers shall use, distribute, or sell any polystyrene foodware in conjunction with the sale of prepared or raw food, or beverages at any location within the City of Glendale.
2. No person shall sell or distribute any polystyrene foodware or polystyrene coolers at any location within the City.
3. No vendor in the City shall sell, distribute, or use polystyrene packing material, including, but not limited to, foam peanuts, packing peanuts, foam popcorn, or packing noodles within the City. *over...*

4. No person may sell, distribute, or use within the City any meat and fish trays, produce trays, or egg cartons made, in whole or in part, from polystyrene.
5. Food and beverage providers that distribute prepared or raw food, or beverages in disposable foodware or disposable foodware accessories shall: (i) not distribute disposables that exhibit resin code “No. 6” or “PS”; and (ii) maintain documentation about the composition of the disposable foodware or disposable foodware accessories. Such documentation shall include information from either the supplier, the manufacturer, or bulk packaging for the disposables and information that demonstrates the disposable material is not composed of polystyrene.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What Alternate Products Are Acceptable?***

Products that do not exhibit Resin Code 6. While products with resin codes 1-5 & 7 can still be presently used, the City may adopt regulations regarding these plastic products in the future.

### ***Can my business have disposable foodware available for customers?***

Once the proposed polystyrene waste reduction regulations become effective, you may have disposable foodware that is not polystyrene.

### ***What organizations will be affected by the proposed regulations?***

The proposed polystyrene waste reduction regulations apply to food or beverage facilities and retail establishments located within the City of Glendale which use, sell, and distribute polystyrene coolers, egg cartons, foodware, packaging materials, and polystyrene fish, meat & produce trays.

### ***Are any businesses / facilities exempted under the proposed polystyrene waste reduction regulations?***

There is no specific exemption for organizations. However, there is an economic exemption that organizations can apply for. The economic exemption process will be available to all entities required to comply with the polystyrene waste reduction regulations. To be eligible for an economic hardship exemption, entities must provide evidence that complying with the ordinance meets specific financial distress thresholds.

### ***When does the City’s disposable foodware accessories ordinance take effect?***

The proposed polystyrene waste reduction regulations will become effective once voted on by the City Council.

### ***What can I do with my current stock?***

The City recommends that affected establishments finish using their existing stock of products before purchasing non-polystyrene products.

### ***Are there non-polystyrene products available?***

The QR code below leads to a list of manufacturers and distributors that supply alternative foodware products. This is an excellent list to keep handy as manufacturers and distributors are continually added to it.

Please do not hesitate to contact the City of Glendale’s Office of Sustainability at **(818) 548-4844** or [Sustainability@GlendaleCA.gov](mailto:Sustainability@GlendaleCA.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*David Jones*

Sustainability Officer

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