

**VILLAGE OF RYE BROOK
POLYSTYRENE (STYROFOAM) LAW
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Summary of Law
Effective June 1, 2019**

- All food service establishments are no longer permitted to provide polystyrene plates, cups, bowls, cartons, coolers, clamshells, and other single use containers.
- This local law does not apply to:
 - Factory-sealed shelf-stable foods
 - Raw, polystyrene-packaged meat, fish, or poultry prepared off-premise
 - Polystyrene-packaged raw eggs.
- Any covered business violating this local law is subject to a fine

Q. Why do we need to ban Polystyrene?

A. The purpose of this law is to improve the environment in the Village of Rye Brook by discouraging the use of polystyrene products which are cost-prohibitive to recycle and are not biodegradable. Polystyrene is a petroleum-based plastic that takes thousands of years to break down, eventually releasing toxins into the environment. This legislation continues Rye Brook's goal to protect the environment by converting our "disposable" habit to a "reusable" one. Polystyrene food containers are also a health risk, as the chemicals contained in the packaging can leach into food.

Q. To whom does the legislation apply?

A. Any food service establishment including but not limited to restaurants, grocery stores, supermarkets etc.

Q. Does this law apply to polystyrene packing materials?

A. No, this legislation does not apply to any polystyrene packing or shipping materials.

Q. Won't the law hurt business owners?

A. No. Many businesses are already switching away from disposable polystyrene products and opting for biodegradable containers made from material such as paper, cardboard, or plant-based plastics. Regular plastic containers are also acceptable under this legislation.

Q. When does the legislation go into effect?

A. The local law shall take effect on June 1, 2019, to allow retail establishment's time to deplete their supply of polystyrene materials.

Q. What is the penalty for non-compliance?

A. Any covered store violating this law shall be guilty of a violation and shall receive a warning for the first violation, may be subject to a fine in the amount of \$150 for the second violation, \$200 for the third violation, and \$250 for the fourth and subsequent violations occurring within a one-year period.