



# Take a Closer Look at Today's Polystyrene Packaging

SAFE, AFFORDABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE





## Polystyrene Plastic – Smart

## Solutions for a Healthy World

Modern polystyrene packaging has long been a preferred material of the foodservice industry because it **insulates better**, keeps food fresher longer, **costs less** than alternative coated paperboard products and **uses less resources**.

With today's growing concerns about the environment and climate change, polystyrene packaging solutions are becoming more recognized as **environmentally-preferable** for a host of reasons including their lightweight properties. Polystyrene packaging makes sense for business, consumers, and our planet.



# Polystyrene Packaging –

# Environmentally Preferable

## Consider The Whole Package

All packaging leaves an environmental footprint regardless of material type. It takes energy and raw materials to produce, transport, and recover or dispose of all materials. So it is important to measure all of these impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of the product. Polystyrene foodservice packaging uses less energy and resources to manufacture than comparable paper or coated paperboard products.

## A Lighter Footprint

- Foam polystyrene cups weigh between two to five times less than comparable paper packaging products. This means fewer air emissions when transporting products.

## An Energy Saver

- A polystyrene hot beverage cup requires about 50 percent less energy to produce than a similar coated paperboard cup with a corrugated cup sleeve. Decreasing energy usage is considered one effective way to slow global warming.

## A Smart Choice for Recycling

- Recycled polystyrene represents an emerging market. A number of municipalities are instituting effective programs to reclaim this valuable resource. Post-consumer recycled polystyrene in some cases becomes “green building” construction products. Most single use, coated paperboard foodservice packaging materials are not recycled because the coating and paper cannot be separated economically.



# Polystyrene Plastic – Designed with Food Safety in Mind



## 50 Years of Safety

The food safety benefits of polystyrene foodservice packaging are undisputed. The United States Food and Drug Administration regulates the safety of food-contact packaging and has approved the use of polystyrene since 1958, so too have governments around the world.

## Clean, Sanitary and Non-Porous

- Polystyrene foodservice products can help in providing sanitary foodservice and preventing the spread of disease. Reusables need washing and drying – the plate and utensils you are using now have been used by someone else.

## Saves Resources

- Reusables require water and energy to clean. Using polystyrene foodservice packaging conserves these important resources.

## Provides Peace of Mind

- Parents, teachers, hospital patients and their loved ones are assured about the safety of prepared foods that are served on the sanitary surfaces of disposable polystyrene foodservice packaging.

## Peak Performance at any Temperature

- Hot foods stay hot. Cold foods stay cold. Fresh foods stay fresh. From organic salads to spicy chili, polystyrene packaging offers more convenience and dining enjoyment for people on the go.



# Polystyrene Food Packaging



## Delivers for Business

### Focus on Fresh Ingredients, Not Packaging

Foodservice is a highly competitive industry. Choosing polystyrene packaging allows everyone from mom-and-pop restaurant owners to directors of large school districts to help keep costs low and menus affordable for customers. Less money spent on packaging also means greater resources available to expand business and hire new employees.

### Greater Convenience for Customers

- Consumers enjoy the benefits of sturdy and strong polystyrene foodservice containers. And polystyrene packaging insulates extremely well to maintain food temperature, which can reduce food waste due to spoilage or damaged packaging and leakage.

### Better Packaging Equals Less Packaging

- Because polystyrene foodservice products provide outstanding insulation and strength, such wasteful practices as double-cupping are not needed. This significantly reduces the number of containers and the natural resources used to make them.



# Polystyrene – The Smart, Sustainable Solution

## Makes Environmental Sense

All things considered, polystyrene foodservice makes good environmental sense. It generally uses fewer resources to manufacture, and weighs half as much as comparable coated paperboard products, resulting in a tangible reduction in air emissions during transport.

## An Emerging Market: Polystyrene Recycling

- The second largest city in the United States, Los Angeles, has implemented a curbside program for recycling clean polystyrene products, including foam cups. No such program exists for coated paperboard products.

## The Landfill Myth

- Polystyrene is not “filling up” landfills. In fact, polystyrene foodservice packaging currently accounts for less than 1 percent by weight and volume of land-filled materials.

## An Excellent Energy Source

- High-energy content materials like polystyrene provide heat and light for neighboring communities. At over 16,000 BTUs per pound, polystyrene contains twice the energy of coal and burns cleanly.

## Contributes LESS Greenhouse Gases

- Coffee lovers may be surprised to learn that one average weight polystyrene foam cup produces significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than two average weight coated paperboard cups or one average weight coated paperboard cup with a sleeve.

