



**What is expanded polystyrene (EPS)?**

Expanded polystyrene, often called Styrofoam™, is a rigid cellular plastic foam which is found in multiple shapes and applications. Please note that Styrofoam™ is a brand name of expanded polystyrene packaging, much like Kleenex™ is a brand name of tissue.



**What is a disposal ban?**

Banning recyclable materials from disposal is one of Metro Vancouver's regulatory tools to encourage recycling. When an item is banned, it is not accepted at the landfill and fines can be charged when it is found in loads being delivered. These charges increase costs of waste management, and can result in increases in utility fees. Starting July 1, 2018, surcharges of 100% of the tipping fee<sup>1</sup> will apply to loads of garbage brought to Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver disposal facilities that contain over 20% white expanded polystyrene packaging (by weight or volume).

**What type of expanded polystyrene will be banned?**

The white rigid expanded polystyrene used for protecting and distributing products such as electronics, appliances and furniture.



**Does the ban include expanded polystyrene food containers, cups, packing peanuts and coloured expanded polystyrene? What about expanded polystyrene packaging that is painted, soiled or treated?**

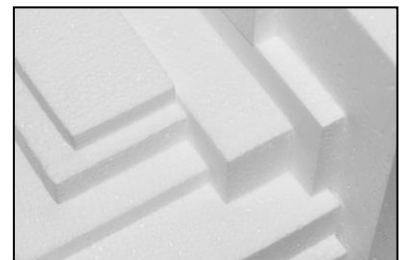
No. The ban does not include expanded polystyrene food containers, cups, packing peanuts or coloured expanded polystyrene. It also does not include white packaging expanded polystyrene that has been painted, soiled or treated. For drop-off locations, use the Recycling Wizard at [www.richmond.ca/recyclesearch](http://www.richmond.ca/recyclesearch) or in the Richmond Collection Calendar app.

**When will the disposal ban on white expanded polystyrene packaging be implemented?**

The ban will be implemented on July 1, 2018.

**Why is white expanded polystyrene packaging being banned from the landfill?**

White expanded polystyrene packaging is being banned from the landfill because it can be recycled, yet by volume; it is one of the largest material categories in the waste stream without a disposal



<sup>1</sup> "Tipping fee" means the fee charged by the GVS&DD for disposing of Garbage or Special Handle Waste at Disposal Sites

ban. Expanded polystyrene can be reused by local manufacturing companies, or recycled into products like picture frames, crown moulding and fences.

**What am I supposed to do with white expanded polystyrene packaging now?**

- Richmond residents can drop off white expanded polystyrene packaging free of charge at the following recycling depots

Location	Address	Phone Number
City of Richmond Recycling Depot	5555 Lynas Lane	604-276-4010
Ironwood Bottle & Return-It Depot	11020 Horseshoe Way	604-275-0585
Queensborough Landing Return-It Depot	Unit A – 409 Boyne St., New Westminster	604-540-4467
London Drugs	5971 No. 3 Road	604-448-4811
	3200—11666 Steveston Hwy	604-448-4852

- Businesses can contact local recycling facilities to arrange recycling collection for a fee. The following Richmond based companies offer pick up services

Company	Phone Number
Urban Impact	604-273-0089
West Coast Plastic Recycling	604-247-1664

**Why doesn't the City collect expanded polystyrene at the curbside?**

The City is a designated Recycle BC collector and, as such, must adhere to Recycle BC's requirement that expanded polystyrene be separated from all other recyclables and delivered to a collection depot. It is not collected curbside or in multi-family complexes as it can blow around and break easily during the collection process. The broken pieces are difficult to separate from other recyclables and this mixture of materials is incompatible with the recycling process, meaning that neither the foam nor the materials contaminated with polystyrene pieces can be recycled properly.