

Proud to Serve the Los Altos Community

City to Enact Foam Food Container Ordinance



Who is affected?

Any establishment, vendor, business, organization, group or individual offering prepared food or beverages, regardless of charge. This includes cafeterias, caterers, convenience and grocery stores, delis, coffee shops, restaurants, bars, food kiosks, mobile and street vendors, and others.

What does it prohibit?

Effective July 4, 2014, a food provider shall not dispense prepared food to a customer in a food container made from expanded polystyrene foam (EPS). In addition, EPS food containers and service ware shall not be sold or provided by any vendor in the City. EPS products included in this ban include plates, trays, cups, bowls, and hinged or lidded containers, and EPS coolers or ice chests not wholly encapsulated within a more durable material. Items excluded from this Ordinance include pre-packaged food such as raw eggs and raw, butchered meat and pre packaged food that is not removed from the container before its sale (e.g., ramen noodles in an EPS foam cup.)

Why did the City adopt this Ordinance?

Often referred to as Styrofoam®, EPS is a form of plastic that has been identified as a distinctive litter concern because it is lightweight, floats, and readily travels from land to inland waterways and out to the ocean where it breaks down into small pieces and is mistaken for food by birds and other marine wildlife. EPS food service ware comprises a majority of EPS litter observed in storm drains. The EPS ban requires providers to use alternative service ware that should result in a reduction of EPS litter, reduce the risk of harm to aquatic wildlife, and improve water quality in the City of Los Altos creeks, the Southern San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Business owners are encouraged to choose alternatives that best meet their needs. Mission Trail recommends plastic options that can be recycled through our Recyclables Program, and/or paper options that can be composted through our Organics Program.

For more information regarding the new Ordinance, visit www.losaltosca.gov/eps, call 650-947-2780, or email engineering@losaltosca.gov.



NO



YES!

Mark Your Calendar

Service will be provided as usual during the week of Memorial Day.

Rotary Club Fine Art in the Park

May 17-18th
10 am-5:30 pm
Lincoln Park, Los Altos

Visit the event calendar at www.MissionTrail/LosAltos.com for more information on these and other exciting events.

Contact us:

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Shopping at the Farmers' Market?

Don't just remember to bring your favorite reusable bags, remember to wash them first. Regular washing of your bags can help prevent bacteria and mold from growing and contaminating future food purchases. Follow the care instructions on your favorite bags. If you can't put a bag in the washing machine with detergent, wipe it down with disinfectant; pay special attention to the seams. Make sure your clean bags are dry before storing them in a cool, dry place.



Los Altos Farmers' Market

Every Thursday
May 1 - September 25
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
State Street
between
Second and Fourth