

**The Town of Shrewsbury's Polystyrene Reduction Bylaw was enacted for the following reasons:**

- Polystyrene foam (commonly referred to as Styrofoam, a Dow Chemical Company trademarked form of polystyrene foam insulation) is a common environmental pollutant and non-biodegradable substance commonly used as food service ware.
- Polystyrene foam is non-renewable, non-recyclable, and non-compostable.
- Environmental Protection Agency has found that the polystyrene manufacturing process is the fifth largest creator of hazardous waste in the United States.
- Alternative cost-effective biodegradable, compostable and/or reusable food service ware is readily available. Such alternatives are less toxic and more environmentally friendly than polystyrene foam.
- Use of biodegradable, compostable food, and/or re-useable service ware will reduce the waste stream and reduce waste costs.

**It is your responsibility to know the entirety of the bylaw:**

The information provided in this brochure is only a summary of the Town of Shrewsbury's Polystyrene Reduction Bylaw.

Please refer to the Polystyrene section contained within the General Bylaw document at the following link:

<https://shrewsburyma.gov/360/Town-Bylaws>

**Richard D. Carney**  
**Municipal Office Building**  
**100 Maple Avenue**  
**Shrewsbury, MA 01545**

**(508) 841-8384**

Printed on Recycled Paper

**BUILDING A HEALTHIER  
SHREWSBURY**

---

A Summary of  
the Town of Shrewsbury's

**Polystyrene  
Reduction Bylaw**



Regulating the use of Polystyrene Foam  
Disposable Food Service Ware by  
Food Service Establishments in the  
Town of Shrewsbury



## What does this bylaw enforce?

The Polystyrene Reduction Bylaw bans all food service establishments from using Expanded Polystyrene foam (commonly referred to as Styrofoam) when preparing, selling or providing food and beverages in the Town of Shrewsbury.

## Who does this bylaw apply to?

Food Service Establishments

## What is the Effective Date?

**JANUARY 1, 2020**

## Examples of unacceptable products:

Expanded Polystyrene



**NOT ACCEPTABLE**

## Examples of acceptable products

- Plastics made from non-expanded Polystyrene (preferably recyclable and compostable)
- Paper products (preferably recyclable and compostable)
- Cardboard (preferably recyclable and compostable)
- Metal and aluminum foil (preferably recyclable)
- Glass (preferably recyclable)

Products made from non expanded Polystyrene may be used. Products that are recycled, recyclable and compostable are preferable. For a list of products that are certified compostable, visit the Biodegradable Products Institute website:

<http://products.bpiworld.org/>



**ACCEPTABLE**

## DEFINITIONS

**"Director"** - the Director of Public Health Services or the Town Manager / Board of Selectmen designee.

**"Disposable Food Service Container"** - means single-use disposable products for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-consume food or beverages, including without limitation, take-out foods and/or leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared by a food establishment. This includes but not limited to plates, cups, bowls, trays, hinged or lidded containers, straws, cup lids, or utensils. It does not include single-use disposable packaging for unprepared foods.

**"Food Service Establishment "** - means any operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, as further defined in 105 CMR 590.002. Any establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the State Food Code, 105 CMR 590.000, et. seq., shall be considered a food establishment for purposes of this ordinance.

**"Expanded Polystyrene"** - means blown Polystyrene (Polystyrene that has been expanded or "blown" using a gaseous blowing agent into a solid foam) and expanded and extruded forms, which are thermoplastic petrochemical materials utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques including but not limited to fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead Polystyrene), injection molding, form molding, and extrusion blow molding (extruded from Polystyrene).

**"Prepared Food"** - means any food or beverage prepared on the food establishment's premises, using any cooking or food preparation technique. Prepared food does not include any raw uncooked meat, fish or eggs unless provided for consumption without further food preparation. Prepared food may be eaten on or off the food establishment's premises.