

MT Cupp FAQs

Q: What is Styrofoam?

A: Expanded polystyrene (EPS) and marked as plastic number 6, is commonly referred to as “Styrofoam,” which is the trade name of a foam product used for housing insulation. The material polystyrene, which is most often seen in the form of disposable food and drink containers, insulation, and packing materials, is a petroleum-based plastic.

Q: Why is Styrofoam not accepted in the blue recycling bin?

A: Even though Styrofoam is recyclable in some cases, the City does not accept it in our blue carts. Our recycling facility does not collect it and because of low demand, finding a market for it is extremely difficult.

Q: Can polystyrene be broken down and recycled into something new?

A: Styrofoam only qualifies for “closed loop recycling,” which means used Styrofoam items cannot be turned back into new ones.

Q: What are some ways to reduce the use of Styrofoam?

A: Use a plastic cup or drink container for beverages. Also, ask for cardboard or plastic carry-out containers when placing to-go orders at local restaurants. Use old newspapers instead of packing peanuts when shipping items.

Q: What is a good way to reuse Styrofoam?

A: Keep a used Styrofoam ice chest in the trunk of your car to safely transport frozen and refrigerated items from the grocery store to your home.

Q: Is there any way to properly dispose of Styrofoam?

A: Styrofoam packing peanuts can be reused and can be dropped off at area UPS and shipping stores. Styrofoam cups and containers used for beverages and food should always be placed in the trash.