How 2 use Polystyrene safely

Polystyrene food packaging meets the demands of our modern lifestyle

Polystyrene cups and take-away containers are sturdier, lighter and less fragile than other packaging materials

Everyday Convenience

Lightweight but affords significant mechanical rigidity

With today's busy lifestyle, its good to know that polystyrene offers economical and high quality food packaging products

Polystyrene offers excellent insulation properties, keeping hot drinks hot and your cold drinks cold

When packed in polystyrene, fruit and vegetables retain their vitamin C content for longer

Polystyrene protects its contents and maintains its strength and shape thus reducing food waste due to spoilage or damaged packaging and leakage

Recyclable into a variety of different useful products, such as coat hangers, stationery and picture frames

This guide is part of the **How 2 SERIES** on Plastics and Related Issues published by PlasticsISA in association with Polystyrene Association of South Africa

Where can I find more information?

Polystyrene ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
www.polystyrenesa.co.za

Plastics|SA
www.plasticsinfo.co.za

Safety of Polystyrene

6
PS

Styrene is a clear, colorless liquid that naturally occurs in foods such as cinnamon, beef, coffee beans, peanuts, wheat and strawberries.

WHAT IS **high impact & expandable** polystyrene?

HIGH IMPACT POLYSTYRENE

High Implact Polystyrene (HIPS) is known by its unique characteristics such as toughness, gloss and durability. Products such as yoghurt tubs, plastic cutlery, rulers, pens and take-away cup lids are all made from HIPS

EXPANDABLE POLYSTYRENE

Expandable Polystyrene (EPS) is a solid foam known for its lightness, insulation properties and durability. It is most commonly used in food and protective packaging and in construction

Did you know?

a yoghurt tub is made from **high impact polystyrene**

Polystyrene:
50 years
of experience, tradition and safe use

Your Questions Answered

What is polystyrene?

Polystyrene is found in your home, office, take-away outlets and in the cafeteria and comes in many shapes and forms. Polystyrene carries the polymer identification code 6 and may be best known for its use in the manufacture of foam coffee cups, meat trays and clamshells.

Can Polystyrene be recycled?

Yes. Polystyrene is recycled into a variety of different items such as picture frames, stationery, products for the construction industry and seedling trays.

Can I use Polystyrene in the microwave?

The intended use of polystyrene in food packaging is to protect and allow for easy transportation, e.g. in take away applications. It cannot withstand excessively high temperatures and will typically melt when used in a microwave. **It is therefore recommended to transfer your food into a microwaveable container before heating.**

What else can Polystyrene be used for?

Polystyrene is also commonly used to make rigid, durable products such as television and computer cabinets, appliances, toys, CD cases, jewel cases, audio cassette cases, yoghurt tubs and disposable cutlery.

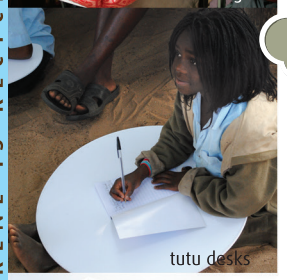
Is styrene a dangerous chemical?

Polystyrene packaging can be in direct contact with food. Polystyrene offers chemical resistance which allows many products to be packed without the contents being affected.

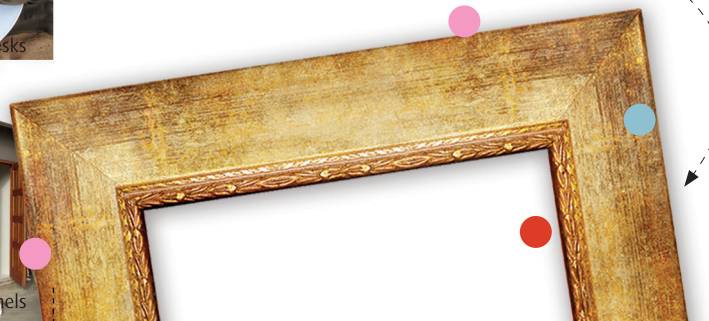
Reduce | Reuse | Recycle

POLYSTYRENE IS RECYCLED INTO

wonderbags


tutu desks

construction panels

Polystyrene is the no. 6 PS plastic

- Polystyrene is the **fourth largest** polymer produced **in the world**
- **Polystyrene does not absorb water or vapour,** so **fresh food stays fresher for longer** and requires less preservatives
- **41** recycled hamburger clamshells make **1 X A4** photoframe