



Did you hear? Starting July 1, 2018, Metro Vancouver will be putting into effect a ban on the disposal of Styrofoam or Expanded Polystyrene (EPS).

ABOUT THE BAN

Metro Vancouver bans the disposal of materials that are readily recyclable or operationally hazardous. The region has a successful 20-year history of increasing waste diversion through bans at disposal facilities. A ban on corrugated cardboard was first introduced in 1997 and more recently, disposal bans on food scraps and clean wood were implemented in 2015. The disposal ban on expanded polystyrene is being introduced in July 2018.

Disposal bans are enforced at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver disposal facilities. When a waste hauler brings a load of garbage into a facility, the load is inspected for banned materials that shouldn't be in the garbage, and the hauler can be subject to a financial penalty. This will ultimately be passed on to the consumer generating the banned waste.

WHAT IS EPS?

Expanded polystyrene (EPS), often called Styrofoam, is bulky and lightweight and represents a large portion of the region's garbage. Instead of being disposed of, it can be recycled. According to metrovancover.org approximately 10,500 tonnes of EPS are disposed of per year in Metro Vancouver. Even though local recycling options are available, only 21% of the material is currently being recycled.

WHY RECYCLE EPS?

Expanded polystyrene can be reused by local manufacturing companies, or recycled into products like picture frames, crown moulding and fences. Local recycling options exist for both residentially and commercially generated expanded polystyrene.

WHERE CAN I RECYCLE EPS?

Residents can drop off expanded polystyrene free of charge at specific recycling depots, and businesses can send expanded polystyrene for recycling at local facilities for a fee. To find a drop-off location or facility near you, visit www.metrovancoverrecycles.org. For more information on expanded polystyrene recycling Call the Recycling Hotline at **604-REC-YCLE** (604-732-9253)