



Contact Us At: [info@nofoamchicago.org](mailto:info@nofoamchicago.org)  
[www.nofoamchicago.org](http://www.nofoamchicago.org)

## Top 10 Reasons Chicago is saying No to polystyrene...aka Styrofoam

- 1.** Styrene, the basic building block of polystyrene is a large environmental health concern as toxic chemicals leak out of these products into the food that they contain (especially when heated in a microwave). These chemicals threaten human health and reproductive systems.
- 2.** The process of making polystyrene pollutes the air and creates large amounts of liquid and solid waste and as much as we know it takes over 500 years to disintegrate.
- 3. Americans use and discard over 2.5 billion Styrofoam cups each year.** These products are made with petroleum, a non-sustainable and heavily polluting resource.
- 4.** Polystyrene foam is often dumped into the environment as litter. This material is notorious for breaking up into pieces that choke animals and clog their digestive systems.
- 5.** While recycling of Styrofoam is possible, it is extremely expensive and most recycling plants do not accept it. Styrofoam cannot be recycled to make new Styrofoam products. It can only be used to make other products such as packing filler.
- 6.** Chicago Public Schools serve school lunches on Styrofoam plates/trays endangering students to these harmful chemicals while choking our landfills with unnecessary harmful waste.
- 7.** In the US alone, over **100 cities** and counties have outlawed polystyrene foam including: Portland, L.A. San Francisco, Orange County, Seattle and Hawaii while many others are working on banning foam including New York City.
- 8.** Many affordable biodegradable alternatives to polystyrene products exist and are now readily available.
- 9.** Chicago has embarked on a comprehensive, citywide initiative to be one of the greenest cities in the United States and banning Styrofoam products is an easy way to show that we mean it.
- 10. Banning Styrofoam is good for business, consumers and the environment.**