

Styrofoam

Why we care

Styrofoam (polystyrene foam) has a useful life of mere hours or days, but persists in the environment for hundreds or thousands of years. It can be carried by the wind, washed into storm drains, and make its way to the ocean contributing to a mass of floating plastic debris. Marine mammals mistake it for food, and it remains lodged in their guts, often causing death by starvation. The manufacture of foam creates significant quantities of hazardous waste, and exposure to styrene presents a risk to workers' health.

Simple, positive change

- There are currently two places in the Portland area to take Styrofoam.
 - Agilyx Corp. (drop off available 24 hrs/day), 13240 SW Wall St., Tigard, 503-217-3160. It also accepts #6 rigid plastic.
 - Exceed Enterprises, which is conducting an experimental program for block packaging foam from January 2–March 31, weekdays 8:00–4:30. 5282 SE Mallard Way, Milwaukie
- Watch for a collection event. On January 11, 2020, the Westside Master Recyclers are holding [PlanetCon](#) in Hillsboro, and Fred Meyer in Tualatin is accepting Styrofoam and batteries from 11:00–3:00, 1920 SW Martinzzzi Ave.
- Take foam peanuts to a mailing service shop for reuse. Contact Metro (503-234-3000 or [Find a Recycler](#)) for the closest site.
- Carry your own mug or request a ceramic mug at a coffee shop.
- To avoid clamshell packaging, bring a reusable container or request that leftovers from a restaurant meal be wrapped in paper or aluminum foil.

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.