

City of San Pablo

Single-use Plastic Bag & Polystyrene Foam Ban

ARE THESE PRODUCT BANS NEW?

No. The City of San Pablo passed a single-use plastic bag ban in 2014 and a polystyrene foam ban in 2015.

DID YOU KNOW...

Polystyrene foam can leach chemicals into food.

Polystyrene foam and plastic bags are an ongoing source of litter in our streets and our creeks. Both of these products break down into smaller pieces over time, but never fully decompose. These small pieces can harm plant and animal health.



- The City of San Pablo bans single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam, commonly known as Styrofoam™.
- The single-use plastic ban applies to retail establishments. The polystyrene foam ban applies to retail establishments and food providers.
- The polystyrene foam ban includes (but is not limited to): cups, plates, bowls, clamshells, other products intended primarily for food service use, coolers, pool and beach toys, packing peanuts and other packaging materials.
- See San Pablo Municipal Code 5.12 and 5.13 for full ordinance details.

How are these laws enforced?

The City inspects businesses to ensure compliance. Inspectors will give non-compliant businesses a warning.

If the violation isn't corrected, City will fine the business in accordance with Municipal Code Section 1.10.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or would like to speak with City staff about either of these bans, please contact the City's Environmental Services Division at: (510) 215-3066

Are there exemptions?

Yes.

Plastic bag ban: Restaurants and non-profit charitable establishments are exempt. Customers participating in government-subsidized purchase programs for low-income residents are also exempt.

Polystyrene ban: Food prepared or packaged outside the City of San Pablo is exempt.