

What is styrofoam?

a.k.a expanded polystyrene

Made with cancer causing toxic chemicals like

Styrene, Benzene, and Peroxide

and petroleum.

plus...LOTS OF FOSSIL FUELS!

DANGERS of Styrofoam

- **Every year** Americans **throw away about 5 billion** Styrofoam school trays.
- **Hot foods/liquids** actually start a partial **breakdown of the carcinogens and neurotoxins** in the Styrofoam-**leaching into food.**
- **Cancer causing chemicals** - nitrosamines
 - causing lung tumors (in mice)
 - increasing the risk for leukemia and lymphoma** (in humans)
- **Does not degrade or break down** over time.

<http://businessbarbados.com/trending/green-business/the-dangers-of-polystyrene/>



In the UK, they use 7 billion disposable coffee cups everyday- That's 2.5 billion cups every year!

Styrofoam

<https://www.americandisposal.com/blog/the-rundown-on-plastic-6-styrofoam>

Is it recyclable?

YES, But.....

A type #6 plastic - MOST recycling facilities DON'T ACCEPT because:

- 95% of it is air
- usually contaminated w/foods and drink

Is it reusable?

It COULD BE, BUT.....

it's hard too hard to reuse because it easily breaks, lacks strength and useability so...there is a small market for recycling it.

History of Styrofoam (polystyrene)

1941 **U.S. coast guards** used them for **patrol rafts**

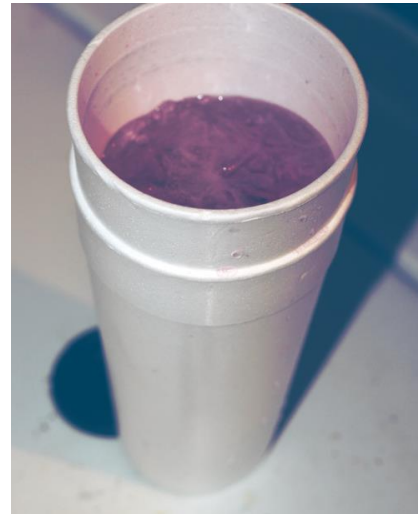
1947 Dow began to use styrofoam in **buildings insulation**

1968 McDonalds introduces **Big Mac Clam Shell**

1990 McDonalds **stopped using** styrofoam

2016 **D.C. Bans single use** styrofoam

2019 **Portland, NYC, Miami , UK, Taiwan ban single use** styrofoam



If our ancestors from 1500's had used styrofoam, it'd still be around today!

Luckily (?) it was only created in 1839



How many POLYSTYRENE trays?

@ Summit H.S.

about 90/day that's 16,200/year.

@ FUSD

6,000/day

That's over 1 MILLION every year!!



Alternative Tray Options

There are many beneficial ways to cut the use of unwanted styrofoam trays.

One way is to use long lasting plastic trays which can be reused over time but they must be properly washed daily. (No dishwasher)

The best alternative solution FOR OUR SCHOOL would be to use paper/sugarcane or corn trays, that are biodegradable and eco friendly to the environment.

Styrofoam

The world produces more than 14 million US tons of polystyrene (plastic foam) each year. Americans alone throw away around 25 billion Styrofoam cups every year.

IF WE HELP SAVE 1,000,000 / YEAR,

We will cut CARBON EMISSIONS!