

Environmentally-friendly Food Packaging

Styrofoam, or polystyrene, engenders a host of environmental and health detriments. It's made from non-renewable fossil fuels, and its production releases the harmful greenhouse gas HCFC-22 into the atmosphere. Heavy exposure to polystyrene is linked to headaches, fatigue, and depression. After use, polystyrene does not biodegrade and is known to choke and clog the digestive systems of animals when improperly disposed of. When burned, polystyrene releases 57 chemical byproducts. Some of these same chemicals can be transferred to food that is stored in Styrofoam containers, especially during microwaving



Buying Guide

When buying disposable insulating cups and plates, choose cornstarch based products. They are easily biodegraded, made from a renewable resource, and do not require atmosphere-harming chemicals during production. Another alternative is to consider buying recycled paper cups with insulating recycled-paper sleeves.

Product	Recommendation	Description
Agriculturally-based Styrofoam replacements	Best	Biodegradable, renewable resource, ozone-friendly, maintain insulative properties
Recycled-Paper Products	Good	Biodegradable, renewable resource, ozone-friendly, recycled, but may need additional sleeve for insulation

Source: The Green Office (www.thegreenoffice.com)

Best Practices

Use the following suggestions to curtail Styrofoam use in your office:

- Instead of Styrofoam packing materials, use shredded paper to cushion items for shipping.
- Use recycled paper products instead of Styrofoam when possible.
- Buy cornstarch, or other agriculturally-based, disposable products.



Food Packaging Alternatives

Green Wave Take Out Containers

These containers are an environmentally friendly way to serve food. All Green Wave products are 100% green and are an excellent substitute for non-environmentally friendly products, such as styrofoam and plastic! Containers are made out of all-natural, annually-renewable resources like sugarcane, grass, and reed plasma. These materials break down quickly in landfills.

Cost range: \$17.99 – \$59.99 per case

Source: The Webstaurant Store www.webstaurantstore.com



Bio-Pak Take Out Boxes

These Bio-Pak Plus 100% recycled paper food containers are a green alternative that is good for environmentally conscious food service operations. There is a green stamp on the bottom of these carry out containers that show these Bio Plus EARTH food take out containers are endorsed by the Green Restaurant Association dinegreen.com because they are made from 100% natural kraft recycled cardboard including a minimum of 35% post consumer recycled paper content.

Cost range: \$61.57 – \$74.88 per case

Source: Mr. Take Out Bags www.mrtakeoutbags.com



Compostable Corn Plastic Containers

Our complete line of corn plastic food container products IS a sure bet for your deli container needs. Strong, durable, and in many cases, cheaper than traditional plastic, you and your customers will rest assured knowing that these products will naturally compost.

Cost range: \$64.01 – \$138.30 per case

Source: The Biodegradable Store www.biodegradablestore.com

