



“Polystyrene Ordinance” Fact Sheet

Overview of Ordinance

The ordinance regulates and limits the use of polystyrene foam food packaging by retail food providers in the unincorporated area of Monterey County. The ordinance will protect the environment, reduce solid waste, and decrease litter throughout the unincorporated County by reducing the use of polystyrene foam food packaging.

The ordinance has a 180-day “grace period” after the effective date (May 14, 2010) to allow food providers adequate time to use up their current stocks of polystyrene food packaging and make the transition to compliant packaging.

Applicability

This ordinance applies to all retail food providers (restaurant, café, delicatessen, food court, mobile/catering truck, temporary food booth, or any other person who provides prepared food at the retail level) who operate in the unincorporated areas of Monterey County.

Exemptions

- Packaging for raw uncooked meat, poultry, fish, or eggs (unless provided for consumption without further food preparation)
- Prepared foods made or packaged outside the unincorporated county, but sold in the unincorporated areas
- Polystyrene foam coolers and ice chests
- Emergency relief efforts

Penalties for non-compliance

After one (1) warning:

- The 1st violation results in a fine of up to \$100
- The 2nd violation results in a fine of up to \$200
- The 3rd and subsequent violations results in a fine of up to \$500 per violation

More Information

Please contact Eric Mangahis (English) or Gabriela Carbajal (Spanish) with the Monterey County Health Department at (831) 755-4579.

