

“Styrofoam” Ban FAQ

(Frequently Asked Questions)

1. Why is placing a ban on “Styrofoam” important and beneficial to Antigua & Barbuda?

“Styrofoam” poses a possible health concern as it contains a carcinogenic compound called “styrene”. “Styrene” leaks or leaches once exposed to heat, which includes hot food and liquids. Therefore, this ban on “Styrofoam” helps to reduce the possible risk of dangerous health effects in Antigua & Barbuda. It also cannot be composted and it can take over 500 years to break down in the natural environment. It is lightweight and can easily be transmitted through the air and into the ocean. Birds and marine animals often mistake the broken bits of “Styrofoam” which results in a negative impact on animal life.

2. What are some of the alternatives that can be used?

Alternatives are usually made from biologically grown products. The Government of Antigua & Barbuda has approved a list of renewable alternatives that is listed below:

- Bagasse
- Cardboard / Paper
- PLA Corn Starch (NON-GMO)
- Areca Palm
- Wheat Straw
- Potato Starch
- Bamboo

3. Will these alternative products be subsidized?

Yes. All alternative products listed for approval would be *Tax-Free*

4. When will the “Styrofoam” ban take effect?

The ban will be implemented in stages commencing on July 1st, 2017. The final stage will be completed on January 1st 2019.

5. Will there be a phasing out period on current stock of “Styrofoam” food containers?

Yes. There is a 6 month “Phasing Out” period to deplete the stock of “Banned” products during each stage.

6. Who will the ban be extended to?

The ban will be extended to All businesses within the food service and catering industry. This includes: large and small supermarkets, food vendors and grocery stores.

7. Are there any Exemptions to the ban?

Yes. Airline Carriers, Private Airline Charters and Passenger Cruise Vessel will be Exempt until further notice.

8. Where can I get more information?

For more information contact the Ministry of Health and the Environment @ 462-5522 or the Department of Environment (DoE) @ 562-2568

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