

2025

Phase out of Polystyrene in Western Australia



Company Profile

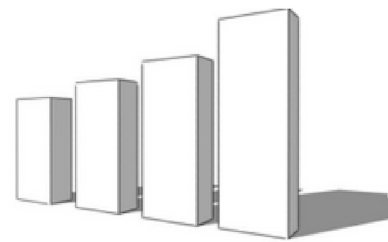
Polystyrene Industries specialises in producing expanded polystyrene (EPS) products tailored for building, commercial, and custom mould requirements. Our manufacturing processes allow us to create and tailor polystyrene for diverse applications. We employ advanced cutting technologies to meet the specific requirements of our valued customers.



Plan for Plastics

In recent times, the Western Australian state government has embraced new standards aligned with the 2025 National Packaging Targets. On June 13, 2021, they introduced a staged approach for regulating plastics, now recognised as "Western Australia's Plan for Plastics." This plan is structured in two stages, with the completion of stage 1 bans in October 2022 and the anticipated conclusion of stage 2 on July 1, 2025.

The primary objective of the Plan for Plastics is to gradually eliminate single-use EPS and substitute them with reusable options or non-plastic alternatives for single-use. However, it's important to acknowledge that EPS is deemed crucial in the insulation, construction and packaging industries due to its durability and protective attributes.



Expanded Polystyrene

Below are the EPS items highlighted in the regime:

- Expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers
- Expanded polystyrene cups and food trays for raw meat and seafood.
- Expanded polystyrene packaging, loose and moulded.

However, given the significance of EPS in various applications, certain exemptions are in place.



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Exclusions of the Plan for Plastics

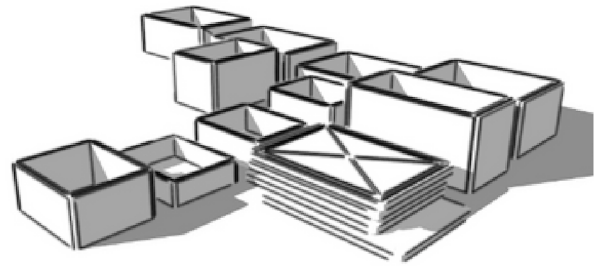


The Western Australian state government has specified that EPS packaging for items classified as "fragile and precision" goods are exempt from the regulations.

Fragile and Precision Products

EPS packaging remains permissible for delicate items that require protective packaging. Manufacturers of such goods are not required to request exemptions under this provision. However, manufacturers and suppliers must be able to provide the following documentation to qualify the product as fragile:

- Substantiate the potential damage to the product during transit if EPS packaging is not used.
- Specify the standards of product protection that are being followed, such as the Australian Standard transport tests, ISTA tests for packaged products, international standard packaging performance tests, or brand owner tests.
- Demonstrate that alternatives to EPS packaging have been explored. If two viable alternatives have proven to be insufficient in protecting the product, this is sufficient evidence that EPS packaging is required.



Moulded Expanded Packaging

In scenarios where products are not deemed to be a fragile or precision good, the following exemptions are in place for EPS packaging:

- Packaging products weighing upwards of 45kg.
- Packaging where it is a permanent part of the product's carry case or kit.
- Boxes for fresh produce and bulk cold home-delivered meal services where there is an opportunity for collection and reuse.
- Packaging retained by a business after the installation of consumer goods by a licensed installer.
- Specialist packaging for medical applications.
- Packaged products manufactured before 1 July 2024.



Sources for Further Information



As the implementation of the Plan for Plastics progresses, Polystyrene Industries wishes to reassure our customers that the production of EPS for packaging and other vital applications will remain uninterrupted by the Plan for Plastics regime. We take pride in manufacturing a product that consistently holds great value for our Western Australian community. Our sincere gratitude is extended to our customers who have continued to support us during this time.

For additional details about the Plan for Plastics regime, please visit the WA Plastics Ban website at plasticsbanwa.com.au. We highly recommend that all EPS users conduct thorough research on the regime and its potential impact on your specific products.

**Read more about the ban
exclusions here.**



Disclaimer

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