

## Styrofoam

### Why we care

Styrofoam (polystyrene foam) has a useful life of mere hours or days, but exists in the environment for hundreds or thousands of years. It can be carried by the wind, washed into storm drains, and make its way to the ocean contributing to a mass of floating plastic debris. Marine mammals mistake it for food, and it remains in their guts, often causing death by starvation. The manufacture of foam creates significant quantities of hazardous waste, and exposure to styrene presents a risk to worker's health.

### Simple, positive change

- Recycle block foam packaging at one of the post-holiday drives:
  - January 8, 10:00-4:00, Whole Foods stores
  - January 8, 9:00-3:30, City of Lake Oswego, 4101 Cruz Way (\$5 per carload)
  - January 8, 9:00-noon, Bridlemile Elementary, 4300 SW 47<sup>th</sup> Dr. (\$5 minimum)
  - February 5, 9:00-noon and February 6, 10:00-2:00, Mary Rieke Elementary, Hillsdale.
- Block foam is accepted year-round (one-cubic yard free) at Recology, 4044 N. Suttle Rd. & 6400 SE 101st (503 285-8777) or Total Reclaim (\$5 a carload), 5805 N.E. Columbia Blvd. (503 281-1899).
- Take foam peanuts to a mailing service shop for reuse. Contact Metro (503-234-3000 or <http://www.metro-region.org/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=1383>) for the closest site.
- Foam food and beverage containers cannot be recycled in the Portland area.
- Carry your own mug or request a ceramic mug at a coffee shop.
- To avoid clamshell packaging, bring a reusable container or request that leftovers be wrapped in paper or aluminum foil.

**Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at [jeanne@earthleaders.org](mailto:jeanne@earthleaders.org).**