



Master Containers, Inc.

Dallas, TX - Mulberry, FL
 Customer Service: 800-881-6847
www.mastercontainers.com

“Food service polystyrene products are safe, sanitary, energy-conserving, FDA-regulated disposable products. In addition, we should not forget why people purchase polystyrene food service products in the first place: they do the job. They are efficient, low-cost, and are safe in the environment.”

“Economic Realities of Recycling” by Raymond J. Ehrlich



You Can Feel Good About Using Expanded Polystyrene “Foam” Cups

Contrary to what you may have heard, products made of expanded polystyrene (EPS)—often referred to as “foam” and usually bearing the #6 recycling symbol—are, in fact, recyclable and efforts to do so are increasing year after year.

Because of its cost-effectiveness and notable insulating properties, EPS is used for building materials as well as many forms of packaging. In the foodservice industry, it is manufactured into consumer products such as cups, plates, bowls, meat and produce trays, egg cartons, etc. EPS is also used for protective transport packaging materials such as loose fill “peanuts” and custom-shaped forms for appliances and electronics.

Master Containers Incorporated is a Florida-based foam cup manufacturer with a Southwest location in Dallas, Texas. At Master Containers, we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint by implementing environmentally conscious manufacturing processes. As our nation and others across the globe are becoming increasingly aware of how our contribution to greenhouse gases potentially affects climate change, today’s manufacturers must factor this into their production processes.

About 20 years ago Kermit the Frog, Jim Henson’s infamous Muppet, sang “It’s Not Easy Being Green.” Naturally he wasn’t referring to recycling, but if you think about it, a few decades ago the recycling infrastructure wasn’t what it is today. Recycling solutions, facilities and resources along with alternative energy sources and natural chemical technologies are advancing and becoming more readily available to manufacturers and consumers.

It’s important that consumers and retailers alike are educated about the recyclability of EPS so they can feel good about using and selling products made of this material.

DID YOU KNOW...

- EPS products, including our full line of foam cups and containers, are not manufactured with ozone-depleting CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons).
 - Foam cups are more environmentally friendly than paper cups. *Surprised? Here’s why:*
The plastic coating inside paper cups, required to make them leak-proof, cannot be easily separated from the paper for recycling. This coating also prohibits paper cups from naturally decomposing in a landfill. In addition, paper cups require more raw materials, energy and chemicals to produce.
 - EPS is comprised of 95% air! Therefore, it can be reduced to a fraction of its original size using a variety of recycling methods.
For example, EPS densifier machines “melt” EPS into dense forms or blocks of material which are reduced by over 90% from their original volume. These densified forms are sterile, easy to handle and transport, and can be stored indefinitely until they are ready to be recycled into products like outdoor furniture or fuels such as diesel.
 - EPS foam does not give off toxic emissions when incinerated since its chemical make-up is carbon and hydrogen. It gives off carbon dioxide, water vapor, and a trace amount of ash when completely combusted.
 - EPS foodservice products represent less than 1% by weight of the solid waste disposed in U.S. landfills.
 - The natural chemical in orange peels called limonene can dissolve an ordinary foam cup. Sony Corporation of Japan has been using this organic element in its polystyrene foam recycling processes since 1999.
- Find recycling equipment manufacturers and resources at the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers (AFPR) web site:*
www.epspackaging.org



What is Master Containers Doing?

Recycling Efforts

Master Containers is working with local businesses to recycle its EPS cup and bead scrap, plastic and Super Sack® scrap, as well as the corrugated cardboard scrap accumulated throughout the manufacturing and packaging processes. As our recycling efforts have increased, our contribution to the local landfill has been significantly reduced.

Environmental Consciousness

In addition to stepping up recycling efforts, Master Containers looks for ways to integrate environmentally responsible practices within its manufacturing processes. For example, we use UV inks for all special order and stock printed cups and containers. UV inks offer both environmental and operational benefits.

They are energy curing inks which produce low to zero emissions (emissions refer to volatile organic compounds, or VOCs) thereby reducing workplace and environmental exposure to solvents. Due to the “instant” curing properties, the finished product can be handled and processed immediately which lowers energy use and costs.

UV-curing coatings are true “pollution prevention” technologies. There are no emissions to control, destroy or recycle.

“Low-Emission Technologies: A Path to Greener Industry” by Ronald Golden

What Can Consumers Do?

Environmental Consciousness

Share the EPS recycling facts presented on the previous page with other concerned individuals and/or businesses.

Do a little research to find out about foam recycling programs in your area. More and more EPS recyclers are being established every year to pick-up manufacturing and packaging waste from commercial businesses. In addition, recycling drop-off programs are being set up for residents at locations like public schools and supermarkets so recyclers can make larger, scheduled pick-ups.

Get Involved

Concerned consumers can also be proactive about establishing EPS recycling drop-off centers or curb-side pickup in their own neighborhood by voicing concerns and recommendations to their local government. There are many compact EPS recycling solutions to choose from such as the EPS densification machines offered by RecycleTech Corporation or Demand Products, Incorporated.

For more information and links regarding pertinent EPS recycling data and resources, visit the Recyclability pages of our web site located at www.mastercontainers.com. Remember, you can feel good about using products made of EPS, otherwise known as foam.



Florida residents and businesses in the Clermont area looking for an EPS recycler can contact Blue Earth Solutions at 352-729-0150.

Blue Earth makes scheduled business pick-ups, and also accepts small drop-offs at their warehouse from consumers who'd rather recycle EPS or plastic waste rather than letting it end up in a landfill.

Recycling equipment manufacturer RecycleTech Corporation also accepts customer drop-offs at their Lakeland processing plant. For more information call 863-665-3755.



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