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February 2015 EcoFacts



## Know your Plastics



### Plastic #6

#### **Plastic #6, Polystyrene**

Sheet, or molded polystyrene is a form of plastic that is used for products like petri dishes, CD cases, plastic utensils, food & drink containers, smoke alarms and license plate frames.

#### **Recycling**

Some recyclers accept molded polystyrene but many do not. Check with your local recyclers to see if they accept #6.

#### **Health and Environmental Impact**

In 2011, OSHA announced that manufacturing workers exposed to high levels of styrene, an ingredient of Polystyrene, have increased risks of leukemia and lymphoma. Because Polystyrene contains styrene, its food contact is regulated by the FDA. Specifically, Polystyrene used for food contact cannot contain more than 1% (0.5% for fatty foods) of styrene by weight.

#### **What you can do**

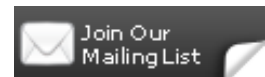
Since it takes hundreds of years for molded polystyrene to biodegrade, it is preferable to find alternative products. Make sure to avoid plastic utensils, and dinnerware. Use reusable dishes or buy compostable products. Remember to take your reusable thermal cup or glass with you when you go for your favorite beverage or take-out.



Visit [www.wastecapne.org](http://www.wastecapne.org) for all the information you need for recycling in Nebraska.



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