



Moulded packaging from expanded polystyrene and other foamed plastics

Enforcement begins 1 July 2025

What is proposed to be banned and when?

The sale and supply of moulded expanded polystyrene (EPS) or other foamed plastic packaging for light product protection (under 45 kg) will be phased out from 27 February 2023.

Expanded plastic packaging that is cut to shape is included in the ban.

There will be a transition period of 28 months before the rules are enforced to allow businesses to use up supplies and source alternative products.

Enforcement of the ban on moulded EPS and other foamed plastics will commence on 1 July 2025.

Why ban EPS packaging?

EPS and other foamed plastics are lightweight materials, easily transported by wind and water when littered. EPS breaks into pieces in the environment and poses a threat to wildlife.

Foamed plastics like EPS are not suitable for recycling in kerbside bins because of their tendency to break up. Nationally, only 19 per cent of EPS packaging is recycled, with the majority from commercial and industrial sources.

What is not included in the ban?

- Moulded packaging for fragile and precision products
- Moulded packaging for products weighing more than 45 kg
- Flexible EPS and other foamed plastic wraps and sleeves
- Foam boxes for home delivery of fresh food and pre-packaged meals 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

The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation is leading the industry-led phase-out of EPS and has published an [EPS Roadmap](#). The roadmap includes the phase-out of additional EPS items not subject to the WA ban by 2025.

What alternatives are there?

Moulded EPS can be replaced through:

- reusable protective packaging and wraps
- moulded pulp or cardboard alternatives
- honeycombed paper, wool or straw.



Will products that need packaging cost more?

Redesigning protective packaging may require long lead times and impact the cost of some product lines. The extended phase-in period has been implemented to align with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation EPS Roadmap and to give manufacturers and suppliers time to adjust to the ban.

Who will the ban apply to?

The ban applies to all Western Australian businesses, manufacturers, retailers and distributors that sell or supply goods requiring protective packaging.

