

Loose-fill expanded polystyrene packaging

Enforcement begins 1 September 2023

Western Australia's

Plan for Plastics

Stage 2

What is proposed to be banned and when?

The sale and supply of loose-fill expanded polystyrene (EPS) or other foamed plastic packaging material such as packing peanuts will be phased out from 27 February 2023.

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

Enforcement of the ban on loose-fill EPS packaging will commence on 1 September 2023.

Why ban EPS packaging?

EPS is a lightweight material easily transported by wind and water when littered. It breaks into smaller pieces in the environment, which poses a hazard to wildlife.

EPS cannot be recycled in kerbside recycling systems. 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?

- Flexible EPS and other foamed plastic wraps and sleeves
- Packaging retained by a business after the installation of consumer goods by a licensed installer
- Specialist packaging for medical applications

What loose-fill EPS alternatives are there?

- Honeycombed or shredded paper or straw
- Reusable satchels

Will products that need packaging cost more?

Compliant loose-fill EPS alternatives may initially cost slightly more but this is expected to decrease over time as more options become available.

Who will the ban apply to?

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

Quick fact

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