Take Out
Has Never Tasted So GOOD!

City of Salinas
Food To-Go Container Compliance Program

Take out food adds value. But take out can leave a bad environmental aftertaste. Food to-go containers like expanded polystyrene foam (EPS—commonly called Styrofoam) remain in place for centuries, spoiling our environment. Litter is a concern for all of us in Salinas. Litter tarnishes our image, hurts business, cost taxpayers money, and degrades our environment. Styrofoam is a petroleum-based product that cannot be recycled locally, and when it soiled with food becomes trash. Wildlife have died from ingesting it.

To protect our community from litter, the City of Salinas City Council adopted a regulation that establishes a better way. This new way is called the Environmentally Acceptable Food Packaging Program, or simply, the “Food To-Go Container Program”. This program is now in effect, but there is a grace period until 4/1/2012 that allows businesses to transition smoothly into the better way.

As a Salinas business you can show your customers that you are a responsible community member by meeting the following requirements:

Beginning April 1, 2012, food providers within the City of Salinas may not provide food in disposable food service containers that are made of expanded polystyrene foam (#6), commonly called Styrofoam.

• All food providers within Salinas must use products that are biodegradable, compostable, or recycleable for their “to-go” containers.

• Containers marked with a #1 thru #7, and #7 are allowed.

• Expanded foam products marked #6 are prohibited.

This law applies to all food service providers, including businesses, city offices, schools, non-profit organizations, and special events. Compliance with this program is mandatory.

Fines will be levied for non-compliance.

Beginning April 1, 2012, the City will verify through its current inspection program and citizen complaints whether food providers are meeting requirements. Businesses that are found to be in violation will be subject to fines. The fine schedule for non-compliance is posted on the City's web page.

Exemptions? There are no exemptions allowing for the routine use of Styrofoam to-go containers.
We Can Help!

For assistance in meeting requirements or learning details about the law, please go to:
www.ci.salinas.ca.us/FoodToGo

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Also, check with your suppliers to determine what products they carry.