

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County News

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Proper Waste Disposal of Foam Items in Palm Beach County

Promo Graphic: Attached

Promo Video (30-sec English): <https://youtu.be/pwUcz8k6BY4>

It's important that people put their waste in the proper place. Foam products, such as egg cartons, packing peanuts, cups and flat and hinged trays, are not recyclable in Palm Beach County's dual-stream recycling program. But there are options to keep these foam items out of the landfill.

Foam products are made from expanded polystyrene through a manufacturing process called polymerization. There are two forming processes to make most foam products for food use:

1. steam-chest molding, where plastic beads are injected with a gas and formed (for cups)
2. extrusion and thermal forming, where plastic is put into sheets and put into molds to form the product (for plates and hinged trays)

Products made from both of these processes have either recycling or reuse options.

Most foam products, like egg cartons, cups and flat and hinged trays, can be rinsed and taken to local grocers for recycling. Packing peanuts, if kept clean and bagged, can be taken to many pack-and-ship stores for reuse. Just be sure to call your local pack-and-ship store before you go to confirm they will accept packing peanuts and how they want them.

A list of locations that take foam products for reuse or recycling can be found on the SWA's [Where to Recycle](#) webpage. If someone is unable to bring foam items to a location near them, the foam products should be placed into the trash. In Palm Beach County, 1.8 million tons of trash is combusted each year to produce enough electricity each year to power the many industrial facilities on N. Jog Road and another estimated 90,000 homes.

For additional guidance on the proper place to put waste, visit these Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County webpages on:

- [Garbage](#)
- [Recycling](#)
- [Yard waste](#)
- [Bulk waste](#)
- [Home chemicals/Household hazardous waste](#)

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The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County is a Dependent Special District that was created by the Florida Legislature in 1975. Since then, the SWA has developed an award-winning integrated solid waste management system to handle the county's waste and recyclables. We call ourselves AWAY: whether you throw it, recycle it or flush it AWAY, we put your waste to work. Each year, we:

- Process more than 100,000 tons of [recyclables](#) each year
- Combust approximately 1.8 million tons of trash each year to generate electricity at [renewable energy facilities](#)
- Produce enough electricity to power approximately 74,000 homes, about the number of homes in Boca Raton and Palm Beach Gardens
- Recycle more than 150,000 tons of [wastewater treatment residuals](#) (sludge from flushes) into environmentally-friendly fertilizer
- Safely dispose of almost 4.9 million pounds of [home hazards](#) a year
- Collect water off of the roofs of [Renewable Energy Facility 2](#) and store it in a 2 million gallon cistern, which is used as part of the energy making process

With the recent changes to the SWA's website, anyone can now sign up to receive SWA news, calendar updates, jobs, or other Web postings of interest by [signing up online](#). Should you sign up online to receive SWA's news releases, we can remove you from this distribution by sending a REMOVE reply to this email.

Connect with the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County - [SWA.org](#)

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most communications to or from the Solid Waste Authority are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

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Attachments area

Preview YouTube video 2023 Solid Waste Authority of PBC Is it Recyclable Foam

