

Expanded polystyrene (EPS) recycling



On March 23, 2004, Pete Kennedy sent the first shipment of expanded polystyrene (EPS) for recycling. This shipment is a test, to make sure the process will work in an efficient manner at Glenn's end and at the recycler.

Most people call polystyrene, or any blown foam product, "Styrofoam." But this is a trade name for a product invented by Dow Chemical over 50 years ago. Dow's website is quick to point out that there isn't a coffee cup, cooler, or packaging material in the world made from STYROFOAM. STYROFOAM is blue and is used in a variety of building materials, including insulation.

Right now, we're only recycling EPS #6 – packing support (not peanuts). We are researching the possibility of recycling the foam cafeteria containers.

Detailed instructions for recycling EPS will be available during Earth Week in the main cafeteria (Building 15). You can pick up a personal handy reference booklet at the Earth Week recycling area. You will also be able to bring the EPS for recycling. Boxes will be provided later in Buildings 110, 21, and 142.

If you want to recycle any EPS, please make sure it is clean, with no stickers, grease, dirt, tape, labels, etc. If it's too difficult to remove a label or contaminant, simply break off the offending piece and recycle the rest. The recycler in Indiana will chop up the EPS anyway and turn it into new packing material.