

Styrofoam Lunch Boxes

Around 100 tonnes of styrofoam food and drink containers are disposed of at our landfills everyday. This constitutes about 1% of the total municipal waste disposed.

2. Biodegradable lunch boxes, as alternatives to styrofoam ones, are made of plant fibres and are more expensive, costing around 30 - 40 cents, i.e. 10 - 20 cents higher than normal styrofoam tableware. This cost burden, inevitably, discourages their extensive use. The short storage life of this product is another major concern of food product manufacturers and users. The development of degradable lunch box is not very mature at this stage and the quality may vary significantly from product to product.

3. Whilst styrofoam food containers are of concern, other styrofoam products are important for packaging, etc. Given that it would be difficult to justify prohibiting one styrofoam product but not another, very careful consideration to alternative strategies would have to be considered before introducing legislation.