



Alternatives to Styrofoam in the Food Packaging Industry

Lately, much attention has been placed on the impending ban on Styrofoam products in the food service industry. An important concern that has been raised in relation to the ban, is the availability of viable alternatives to Styrofoam containers. The fact that worthy replacements to Styrofoam are already available in the country should help to allay this concern. These alternatives boast to be non-toxic, harmless and healthy. Moreover, they are compostable and generally degrade within a few months after use, once exposed to a combination of bacteria, soil, oxygen and sunlight. This is indeed a desired quality compared to Styrofoam which takes hundreds of years to break down. Most biodegradable food packaging products are manufactured in ISO certified production plants under the strictest hygiene to ensure that they are safe to contain food for human use.



Biodegradable packaging products are generally made from natural organic raw materials such as bagasse or potato starch among others. Containers come in the form of plates and cups and take-out food boxes such as burger boxes, a variety of food and salad containers etc.

The biodegradable containers go through a thorough production process with quality control mechanisms at every stage to ensure a high quality product that is safe for use. The finished product undergoes stringent tests to ensure that they confirm with desired strength and durability and are in keeping with internationally approved standards.



Biodegradable products are also treated to ensure safety for food use and to remove any contaminants associated with the production of the raw materials used and airborne or other pathogens such as Mildew. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a common sterilization method used in the biodegradable products industry.

In this New Year, endeavour to do your part in reducing the use of non-biodegradable Styrofoam. Make biodegradable food containers the go-to product for your take-away and

portable food packaging needs. Make the switch now and help to rid our environment of Styrofoam!

Sources:

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2012/news/stories/08/26/eco-pak-imported-bio-degradable-containers-to-hit-local-market-in-october/>

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