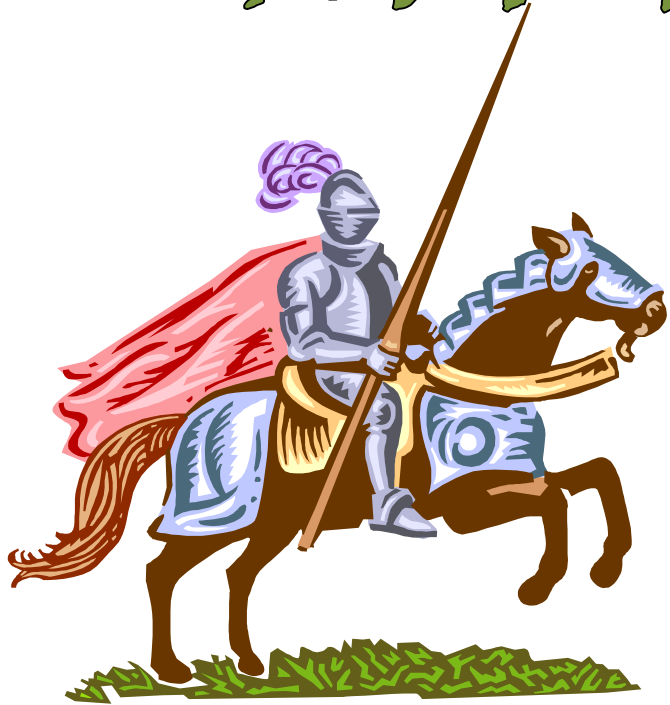


# MYTHBUSTING

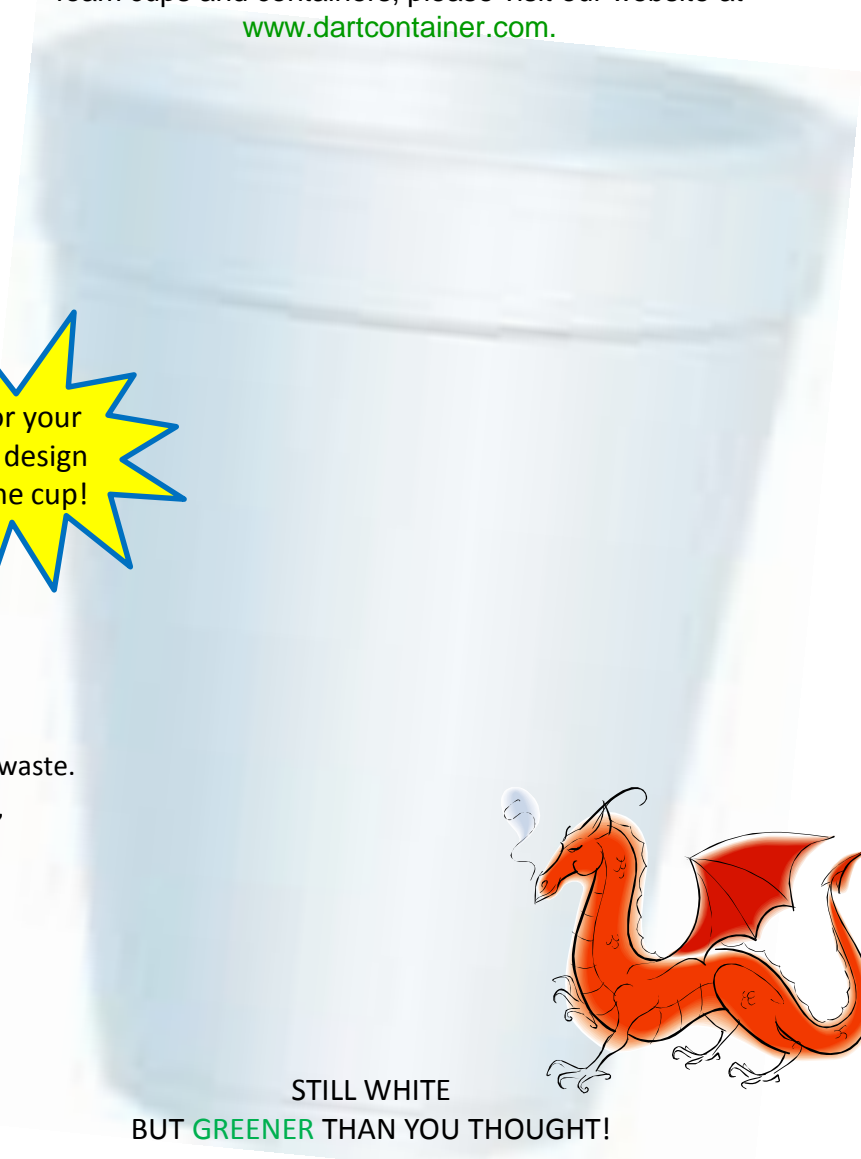


Help learn why we use **FOAM CUPS!**  
The reasons are listed below, along with other environmental facts. See if you can find the bold words in the puzzle!

C A R B O N D I O X I D E G R  
P W W B Y D L M K O Q E E R E  
D E G R A D A T I O N N N E C  
P L A S T I C N N X E A E E Y  
R E P O R P T V G J M H R N C  
P A Y I N S U L A T E T G H L  
E T S A W K H Y N B M E Y O E  
I U Y Y W T R D F E M M W U D  
T R E N I F O A M D L T Z S Y  
E N E R Y T S Y L O P M G E U

## Environmental attributes of foam cups

For more information on the environmental attributes of foam cups and containers, please visit our website at [www.dartcontainer.com](http://www.dartcontainer.com).



STILL WHITE  
BUT **GREENER** THAN YOU THOUGHT!

- 1) Foam cups **INSULATE** better than paper cups.
- 2) Insulation helps keep your food and drink at the **PROPER** serving temperature.
- 3) Foam cups are 95% air. **FOAM** cups weigh two to five times less than comparable-sized paper cups.<sup>1</sup>
- 4) An average weight paper hot cup generates 181% more solid **WASTE** by weight than a comparable foam cup.<sup>2</sup>
- 5) An average weight paper hot cup with a cardboard sleeve requires 47% more **ENERGY** to produce than a comparable foam cup.<sup>2</sup>
- 6) **POLYSTYRENE** plastic cups and containers, including foam cups and containers, account for less than 1% by weight and volume of municipal solid waste.
- 7) Landfills are designed to inhibit **DEGRADATION**. This means nothing breaks down in properly maintained landfills. Not foam cups, not paper cups, not newspapers, not banana peels (within a meaningful timeframe).
- 8) When paper and bioresin (cups made from corn for example) products degrade, they emit **CARBON DIOXIDE** and **METHANE**.
- 9) Carbon dioxide and methane are both **GREENHOUSE** gases.
- 10) Polystyrene plastic foam cups are **INERT** and stable in landfills.
- 11) Polystyrene foam cups can be **RECYCLED** in select programs, such as Los Angeles' curbside recycling program. Recycled foam cups are being re-manufactured into picture frames, crown molding, rulers, and hangers.
- 12) Most paper cups are made with paper and **PLASTIC**. When a product is made from multiple materials it becomes harder to recycle.

<sup>1</sup> Hocking, *Environmental Management*, November 1991.

<sup>2</sup> Franklin Associates, Ltd., *Final Peer-Reviewed Report: Life Cycle Inventory of Polystyrene foam, Bleached paperboard, and Corrugated Paperboard Foodservice Products*, March 2006.



## Why we use Dart foam cups and containers

### Because they are safe!

- Foam cups are plastic cups. They are made from a plastic call polystyrene, which is then expanded, or “foamed.”
- FDA regulations allow the use of polystyrene as a food-contact packaging material.
- Styrene is naturally occurring in some food and drink we consume, including wheat, beef, strawberries, cinnamon, and beer.



### Because they work!

- Foam cups and containers insulate better than any alternative, ensuring your food and drink is served at the safe and proper temperature.
  - A soft drink in a foam cup will have more carbonation in it after 15 minutes than the same drink in a plastic-lined paper cup after 2 minutes.
  - After 10 minutes, a hot drink in a plastic-lined paper cup will have lost twice as much heat as the same drink in a foam cup.
- Foam cups won't sweat or get soggy, and foam cups eliminate the need for extra waste, such as double-cupping and java jackets.

### Because of their environmental attributes!

- One of the main criteria of reducing our carbon footprint is reducing the material and energy used in the manufacture of products.
  - Material reduction - Dart foam cups are 95% air, and only a tiny 5% actual plastic. Foam cups weigh two to five times less than comparable-sized paper cups<sup>1</sup>, which is a great indicator of how much less material is used. Remember; reduce, reduce, reduce!
  - Energy reduction - An average weight paper hot cup with a cardboard sleeve requires 47% more energy to produce than a comparable foam cup.<sup>1</sup>
- Foam cups can, and are, being recycled in select programs. In fact, America's appetite for recycling polystyrene #6 foam is rapidly growing.
  - Westwood Elementary School in Stockton, CA, is a student driven success story for recycling foam. Since initiating its recycling effort, Westwood Elementary has realized a 20% savings by eliminating one of their previous five weekly days of trash pick-up.
  - Recycled foam cups are being made into plastic clothing hangers, picture frames, crown molding, and more.



### Because they are cost effective!

- Foam packaging allows everyone from mom-and-pop restaurant owners to directors of large school districts to help keep costs low and menus affordable for customers and students.
- Less money spent on packaging means greater resources for fresh food, innovative menus, and expanded business.



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<sup>1</sup> Franklin Associates, Ltd., *Final Peer-Reviewed Report: Life Cycle Inventory of Polystyrene Foam, Bleached Paperboard, and Corrugated Paperboard Foodservice Products* (Prepared for the Polystyrene Packaging Council, March 2006).