

EPS and the Environmental Benefits

Expanded polystyrene makes a positive contribution to the environment during all stages of its lifecycle.

In terms of global warming, EPS plays a positive role in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The consumption of fossil fuels for both domestic and industrial heating is a significant contributor to the global output of carbon dioxide. It has been estimated that the effective application of EPS insulation could cut carbon dioxide emissions by up to 50%. Furthermore the insulation performance of EPS does not deteriorate during its lifetime therefore the reduction in emissions last the full lifetime of a building.

In addition, EPS is completely recyclable.

EPS is completely safe and non-toxic

No Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) or Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are used in the manufacture of EPS.

No toxic chemicals are released when EPS is incinerated - only carbon dioxide gas and water vapour is released.

No dioxins are released when EPS is incinerated.

No endocrine disruptors are found in EPS as it is comprised of only carbon and hydrogen with no other chemicals present that can act as endocrine disruptors.



Members of AMEPS

The following countries are members of AMEPS and the International EPS Alliance (INEPSA)

- Australia - Recycling Expanded Polystyrene Australia (REPSA)
- China - China Plastics Processing Industry Association EPS Committee (CPPIAEPS)
- Hong Kong - Chinese Hong Kong Expanded Polystyrene Association (CHKEPSA)
- India - Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Association India (EPSRAI)
- Indonesia - Indonesian Expanded Polystyrene Association (INAEPSA)
- Japan - Japanese Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Association (JEPSRA)
- Korea - Korea Foam-Styrene Recycling Association (KFRA)
- Malaysia - Malaysia Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Council (MERC)
- New Zealand - Plastics New Zealand Incorporated (PNZI)
- Philippines - Polystyrene Packaging Council of Philippines (PPCP)
- Singapore - Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Association Singapore (ERAS)
- Taiwan - Chinese Taipei Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Association (CTEPSRA)
- Thailand - Thai Plastics Foam Recycling Industries Association (TPFRIA)
- Vietnam* - Vietnam Plastics Manufacturers Association (VPMA)
*Associate Member



ASIAN MANUFACTURERS OF EPS

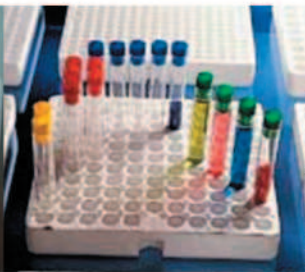
Website: <http://www.ameps.net>

Expanded Polystyrene



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What is AMEPS?

Asian Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene (AMEPS) was formed in 1994 and has now expanded to include 14 members across the Asia Pacific region. One of the major areas of work that AMEPS has been actively involved in is the establishment and promotion of EPS recycling associations within each member country with the goal of increasing the recycling of EPS across Asia.

All members of AMEPS are members to the International EPS Alliance (INEPSA) a global group formed with EPS producers in Asia, Europe, North and South America.



The Magic of EPS Packaging

Expanded polystyrene (EPS) is used widely as a packaging medium for a variety of products. One of the major applications of EPS is as protective packaging for consumer electronic products and white goods.

Its excellent thermal insulation and moisture resistant properties make it ideal to package perishable foodstuffs such as fruit, vegetables and seafood thereby enabling freshness extension. EPS also has applications in horticulture as seed trays.

The outstanding shock absorbency of expanded polystyrene packaging ensures the protection of a broad range of products. Moreover, its compression resistance means that EPS is ideal for stackable packaging goods.

EPS in Building and Construction

The versatility of expanded polystyrene enables it to be used for multiple building and construction applications such as:

- Underfloor Insulation
- General Insulation Board
- Cavity Wall Insulation
- Roofing Insulation
- Civil Engineering Applications
- Marine Applications

How is EPS recycled?

1. Segregation

EPS scrap such as used packaging must be separated from other materials before it enters the waste stream. EPS is easily recognisable and can be collected at retail outlets, distribution centres, factories or warehouses.



2. Densification

EPS is then densified to about one-fortieth of its original size for easy, cost-effective transportation (don't forget that EPS in its usual form is ~98% air!)

3. Extrusion & Pelletisation

The densified EPS is then granulated before being passed through an extruder to form small pellets known as General Purpose Polystyrene (GPPS)



4. Reprocessing

The GPPS pellets can then be blended with other materials and/or additives to form a feedstock for manufacturing products such as synthetic timber (picture frames and garden furniture), cd and video cases, plant pots and coat hangers.

