

Polystyrene Floatation Devices – Long-term Impact

Fortunately, over the past few years, we have become more aware of how vulnerable our lakes and rivers are. Years ago, few were aware of the long-term damage that polystyrene used in floating docks might cause. As sun and water degrade the material it begins to leech microplastics into the water. These microplastics destroy the natural environment, end up in the food chain - even being consumed by people.

On May 13, 2021, the government passed a new legislation: *Bill 228 Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers Act, 2021* at third reading, with the support of all parties. (<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-228>).

The act prohibits unencapsulated expanded or extruded polystyrene in floating docks, floating platforms and buoys (new builds; reconstruction of existing builds; selling an existing build).

We know that docks are expensive, but we're asking cottagers to look into replacing any docks using unencapsulated polystyrene as soon as they can.

Let's all do what we can to keep Kosh clean and healthy.



Debris top and bottom left. Dock with Polystyrene top right. Better alternative bottom right.