

# REUSEPS

a "green" periodic newsletter from your friends at Foam Fabricators, Inc.

## It's up to us...

Good decision making requires having all the facts and often, setting emotions and perceptions aside.

Sadly, many kids are taught that plastic is "bad" because if it ends up in a landfill it will not biodegrade. The truth is, because of the way landfills are designed and built they are essentially vaults. Nothing can get in or out. All of that is dictated by the EPA.

Back in the '80's when the famous "garbologist" William [Rathje](#) began digging up landfills we all learned that due to a lack of things like oxygen - nothing biodegrades, not plastic, paper or a piece of steak. Link to [story](#).

It's a bad idea to landfill plastics, not because they don't degrade but because they are a valuable resource. They can be reused, recycled or diverted to places like waste-to-energy plants.

Plastics are not inherently good or bad. They can be either, largely based on our actions.

## What is a package really worth?

The EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) box to the right did its job and it paid a price. As you can see it is a little beat up. This container traveled all the way across the country protecting medicine (Enbrel® in this case). In the past the EPS box would have been in an additional outer container to protect it. Over time several companies have begun shipping the EPS on its own and it works just fine.



There are a few different ways to look at this poor little beat up EPS box. Is it a nuisance? Is it a problem to be solved? Is it a danger we should ban? Or is it a valuable tool?

The value of this tool is based on **what it does, not what it is**. The EPS container does not have much intrinsic worth in and of itself, maybe \$3.00. The importance and usefulness of the package is directly related to its ability to keep the medicine safe, that directly translates to keeping the consumer safe too. Those two things are worth a lot more than \$3.00.





## Bigger than just us...

We are part of an industry trade association, the EPS-IA, that does many things, including supporting recycling efforts.

The EPS-IA's most recent recycling report indicates that over 127 million lbs of EPS are recycled annually [report](#).

Over the past decade the EPS industry has achieved an overall recycling rate of 15%, one of the highest in the plastics business.

We receive and recycle EPS at all Foam Fabricators locations. In addition that the EPS-IA has over 200 more drop off sites. Click [here](#) for that map and location addresses.

Please remember, in addition to being safe and recyclable, EPS also has a very low environmental footprint. Click this [link](#) for a full EPS environmental profile analysis.

Hey - that's a lot of good news!



## It's our Birthday!

Foam Fabricators was founded in 1957 by Ted Komen who ran the enterprise until 1989. Budd Florkiewicz then bought the company and still owns it today. In 2017 we celebrate our 60th anniversary. Same name, same basic functions and only two owners in 60 years.

All of that stability is what our customers depend on and have come to expect of us. In a business world that at times prioritizes speed and change over competency, accuracy and consistency - a dependable *safe harbor* is a nice thing to have.

The aging process can be a curse or a blessing. We view it as the latter to the degree the company can leverage its age and experience into stable and fulfilling employment for it's employees and reliable products and services for it's customers.



Need help recycling? Check out [www.reuseps.com](http://www.reuseps.com), call us at (800) 626-1197 or email us at [ffihelp@foamfabricatorsinc.com](mailto:ffihelp@foamfabricatorsinc.com)

Thanks for taking the time to read this.