



**Do you know what's under your dock?** Is it plastic foam (aka Styrofoam®)? Plastic foam pollutes our rivers and can harm wildlife. So this season:

# Swap Your Dock for Cleaner Rivers!

[www.ctriver.org/swap-your-dock](http://www.ctriver.org/swap-your-dock)



**Connecticut River  
Conservancy**

## When it's time to put in or take out your dock, check to see what's under there!



Many docks use plastic foam for buoyancy, but plastic foam breaks apart when it comes in contact with debris and animals. As a result, fish and wildlife ingest the plastic foam particles, which never fully break down and leach toxic chemicals into the water.

There are better options! Swap out plastic foam for enclosed foam, plastic barrels, or hollow/air-filled plastic.

Funding provided by the Ocean Conservancy

### Some folks have already made the switch:

**Dave Ciolkos** swapped his dock's plastic foam for plastic barrels 15 years ago and hasn't looked back! Dave sourced used 55-gallon barrels from a local car wash to reconstruct his dock, and 15 years later, the barrels are holding up even better than the decking. "I don't suspect these barrels will ever go," Dave says. "Barrels improve the dock's longevity. When foam gets nicked, chunks just fall off."



**Kelly Stettner** installed her extruded hollow plastic dock 10 years ago, which has no foam or filler. It's tough and adaptable, rising and falling with the water levels while enduring hard rain, mud and boats dragged over it. "Styrofoam® is one of the most annoying things we find as garbage," Kelly says. "It's impossible to recycle (so far), and seems to have a half-life of a zillion years. I love our docks—the material is extremely durable and buoyant."



Swap your dock and take action at [www.ctriver.org/swap-your-dock](http://www.ctriver.org/swap-your-dock)