

Compostable Foodserviceware Quick Guide



Compostable

Compostable is a material's ability to biodegrade within a sufficiently short amount of time in the conditions of a composting operation. Many biodegradable products are not compostable, and the terms are not equal.

BPI (Biodegradable Products Institute) is North America's leading certifier of compostable products. It ensures that products have been independently tested to meet ASTM D6400/D6868 standards. Look for the BPI logo to signify that a product has been certified.

Greenware® products made from PLA are BPI certified to meet international standard ASTM D6400 for compostability. Greenware products made from plant fiber meet standard ASTM D6868 for compostability. Both product lines are compostable in actively managed municipal or industrial facilities, which may not be available in your area. Not suitable for backyard composting.



Decomposable, Degradable, Biodegradable

These terms mean something is capable of breaking down by microbes over time.

The terms are unqualified and generic. They do not address how a product will biodegrade in a specific environment (i.e. compost).

These terms are commonly misused in the market to promote products which are made with traditional polymers such as PET, PS, PE, PET, etc. which may contain additives claimed to promote biodegradation. The Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) views compostability as a more meaningful indicator of a package's ability to undergo an environmentally beneficial process at end-of-life. The SPC does not encourage marketing claims of biodegradability and has a formal position against the use of these additives in conventional, petroleum-based plastics.

Why Compost?

Compostable packaging and serviceware can allow for greater food waste diversion and can help municipalities reach zero waste goals.

Compost reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, promotes higher yield of agricultural crops and decreases the amount of organic waste in landfills.

What does “annually renewable” mean?

The term refers to products that are made from resources that can be replenished naturally within one year.

What are Greenware cups and portion cups made from?

Greenware cups, portion cups and on-the-go containers are made from PLA (polylactide acid). Lactic acid is made from dextrose by fermentation. Dextrose is made from starch, and starch is produced from plant sources, such as corn. PLA is clear and strong like petroleum-based plastic and can be commercially composted.

Greenware cups are marked with the resin identification code 7. Does this mean that Greenware cups contain BPA?

No. Greenware cups are made with PLA. Bisphenol-A (BPA) is not used, directly or indirectly, in the manufacture of any Fabri-Kal products, including PLA-based products.

What are Greenware Plant Fiber products made from?

Greenware Plant Fiber containers are made from wheat straw. Wheat straw is waste leftover after the wheat grain is harvested each year. All wheat straw is grown within a 20-mile radius of our Burley, Idaho, facility.

Are Greenware Plant Fiber products gluten free?

Yes. We use the stalk of the wheat straw to make our product. Protein is not stored in the stalk of the wheat straw plant.

Are Greenware products compostable?

Greenware products made from PLA are BPI certified to meet international standard ASTM D6400 for compostability. Greenware products made from plant fiber meet standard ASTM D6868 for compostability. Both product lines are compostable in actively managed municipal or industrial facilities, which may not be available in your area. Not suitable for backyard composting.

Can Greenware products be composted in my home composter?

Due to the variability in conditions, we do not recommend Greenware products for use in backyard or home composting.

Are Greenware products recyclable?

PLA and molded fiber products are currently not recycled in the majority of U.S. communities.