



COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING GUIDE

While reusables are the best option to replace single-use plastic packaging, we get it - sometimes this is not practical. The next best option is to use compostable packaging, and look for ways you can reduce how much you are giving out.

But choosing the right items can be tricky - there is a lot of misleading information out there. You don't want to end up paying more for a lower quality product that's not better for the environment. Our guide will help you find the most sustainable packaging options currently on the market.

FINDING THE RIGHT PRODUCTS

Products can be certified compostable, which means it is proven to break down in a specific timeframe under specific conditions. If a product claims compostability, it must be backed up with a certification.



In Australia, the industry standards are the Australian Standard for Home Composting (AS 5810) and for Commercial Composting (AS 4736). Look out for these symbols when choosing your packaging.

Australian certifications aren't mandatory, so most compostable products are certified to European or American Standards - your next best choice. Ask your supplier if the product you're considering is certified compostable. Where possible, choose home compostable items as these will break down more readily in backyard composts and the environment.

Avoid Greenwashing

'Greenwashing' is making a product sound like it is better for the environment than it actually is. Marketers cleverly use buzzwords such as 'sustainable', 'biodegradable' and 'eco-friendly' to do this, as well as imagery and colours. Ignore the marketing and pay attention to certifications and what the product is made of.



Finding compostable products on the Peninsula

The easiest way to ensure you're using the right products is to head to our website for our plastic-free catalogues from major packaging brands, and a range of local packaging suppliers who stock them. We've done all the work so you don't have to! Head to wastewisepeninsula.org/supplier.

TIPS

- For coffee cups, look for AS certified cups made of paper with a PLA (bioplastic) lining.
- For coffee cup lids, look for bagasse lids which are made from sugarcane pulp, a byproduct that would otherwise go to waste. The next best alternative are AS certified commercially compostable PLA lids.
- For straws, look for 3-ply sustainably sourced [FSC \(Forest Stewardship Council\)](#) certified products. Or source wheat or rye straws, made from a farming byproduct.
- For plates and bowls, look for bagasse or unlined paper.
- For cold cups, look for paper lined with PLA. Lids (where needed) should be made from PLA.
- For cutlery, [FSC certified](#) wood is the best option.
- For takeaway containers, bagasse is great as it is leak-proof, freezer-proof and microwavable. Match with bagasse or PLA lids. Unlined or PLA lined board is also an option.
- For bags, provide recycled cardboard boxes or [FSC certified](#) paper bags.

A FINAL NOTE ON COMPOSTING

Ideally you'd go the extra step and turn your compostables into compost for our gardens and farms. Council is currently introducing a FOGO (Food & Organics) bin for residents and we're looking into larger scale options for businesses.

In the meantime, you can join our growing number of local venues who've taken composting into their own hands - like Millers Bread Kitchen Dromana, whose compost goes directly to Torello Farm up the road. A closed loop system supporting local produce, regenerative farming and low transport miles.

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