



A guide to eco terminology

With single-use packaging on every foodie's mind, eco-friendly products are in the spotlight.

But the terminology can be confusing. Recyclable. Biodegradable. Compostable. What do these terms mean? Cut the confusion with this handy guide by Vegware, the global specialist in plant-based compostable foodservice packaging.

Recyclable

Everyone likes the word 'recyclable' but in reality, conventional foodservice packaging can't be recycled.

Kept separate, dry card or paper can be recycled. So can plastic water bottles or metal drink cans. But used catering disposables are a mix of card, plastic and food, so food contamination is inevitable. This combination creates massive recycling challenges, so the result is often incineration or landfill.

With compostable disposables, food isn't contamination, it's a vital ingredient in the composting process.

Biodegradable

Biodegradable means something breaks down naturally, but it can take years. Biodegradable tells us nothing about timescales – for example, wood is biodegradable, but a log cabin can stand for generations.

When it comes to biodegradable, there is no guarantee it will break down in commercial composting.

Compostable = biodegradable, in under 12 weeks!

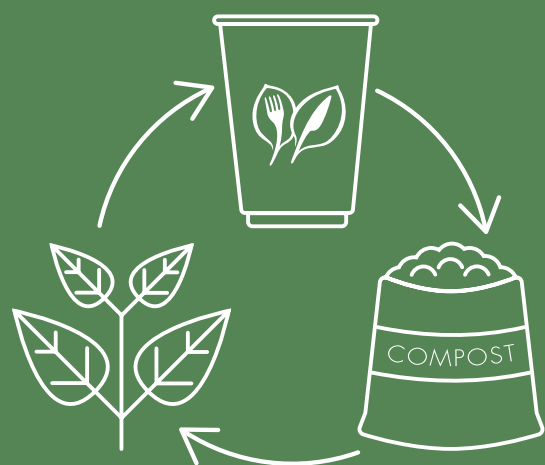
Compostable means something can break down in under 12 weeks, and is therefore suitable for commercial composting together with food waste.

Commercial composting creates the perfect balance of microbes, moisture and warmth. So instead of being buried or burnt, your compostable catering 'waste' creates nutrient-rich compost that helps plants thrive.

Close the Loop

It's important we divert as much as we can from landfills. For catering disposables, choose compostable to feed our future crops. Make sure your disposables supplier has compostability certification - that's the real guarantee. Vegware holds the most extensive compostability certification of any UK packaging supplier.

Vegware's environmental support can help foodservice Close the Loop. Ask environmental@vegware.co.uk about composting options in your region.



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