

CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

WHAT ARE CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS?

Certified compostable products are made of materials that do not leave behind any toxic material, breaking down readily in a commercial composting system. This can include items that look like plastic such as packaging, films, cutlery and coffee cups. They will always state they are 'certified compostable'. Australia has two of the highest standards in the world when it comes to certification:

- **AS 4736** - this certifies the material can be composted through your green bin at a commercial compost facility.
- **AS 5810** - this certifies the material can be composted in your home compost bin.

Commercial compost facilities generate much more heat than a home compost bin, and use oxygen and water to break down materials into compost so they can process certified compostable products much more easily than you can in a home compost bin.



WHAT COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC PRODUCTS CAN GO IN THE GREEN BIN?

Certified compostable products are clearly marked with these logos.



AS 4736 - this certifies the material can be composted through your green bin at a commercial compost facility



AS 5810 - this certifies the material can be composted in your home compost bin.

There are other standards from the USA and Europe but these standards are not the same as the two Australian Standards.

Peats Soil & Garden Supplies process materials collected from household green bins at their commercial composting sites in South Australia. Peats strongly prefer Australian Certified compostable products only. Compostable packaging and packaging products such as plates, straws, knives and forks etc made from natural fibre materials that are 100% natural and have no glues, dyes or other additives may also be acceptable.

WHAT CAN'T GO IN THE GREEN BIN?

- NO** degradable
- NO** oxo-degradable
- NO** PLA
- NO** coffee pods
- NO** rubber or latex
- NO** clothing (incl. cotton & wool)
- NO** string or rope
- NO** waxed cardboard

Sometimes the language used to market compostable plastics and alternate products can be confusing. Things like cutlery, plates, coffee cups, coffee pods, nappies and plastic bags use claims like 'green', 'eco-friendly' or 'environmentally friendly'. The terms 'biodegradable' and 'degradable' are often confused with compostable.

NEVER IN THE GREEN BIN BECAUSE DEGRADABLE AND OXO-DEGRADABLE ARE NOT THE SAME AS CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE

Unfortunately degradable and oxo-degradable items do not compost, they only break down into smaller pieces of plastic. This is still plastic and can't be eaten by composting micro-organisms. These tiny pieces of plastic contaminate the environment and pose a risk of entering the food chain. If it is not marked compostable it should only go in the waste bin, never the green bin.

If you're not sure about what can go in the green bin, look for the Australian Standards logos.

For further information on specific items in your council area head to WHICHBIN.SA.GOV.AU or call 1300 137 118

WHICH BIN? THE GREEN BIN



Small prunings and branches



Vegetable and fruit peels



Tissues and kitchen towel



Small quantities shredded paper



Cooked and raw food scraps



Pet poo



Tea bags and coffee grounds



Meat, seafood and bones



Egg shells, cheese and yoghurt



Lawn clippings, leaves and flowers



Egg cartons and greasy cardboard



Certified compostable products
AS 4736
AS 5810

NEVER IN THE GREEN BIN



NO plastic bags or liners



NO hoses or plant pots



NO batteries or e-waste



NO large logs or stumps



NO painted or treated wood



NO nappies



NO metal or garden tools



NO medicines, sharps or xrays



NO dirt or rocks



NO chemicals or poisons



NO building materials



NO polystyrene or foam

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peats
SOIL & GARDEN SUPPLIES



Government
of South Australia
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