

# COMPOSTABLE FOOD SERVICEWARE QUICK GUIDE



## Compostable

Look for the logo signifying BPI (which certifies products meet ASTM D6400/D6868 Standards). If applicable, look for facility approvals such as Cedar Grove. Ensure that products labeled generically “compostable”, and not carrying certification, comply with ASTM D6400/D6868 Standards.



**COMPOSTABLE**  
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

Check locally, as these do not exist in many communities. **Not suitable for backyard composting.** CERT # 0000000



## Decomposable - Degradable - Biodegradable

These terms (and similar ones) are unqualified and generic. They do not address how a product will biodegrade in a specific environment (compost, soil, marine, etc.). These terms are commonly misused in the market to promote products which are made with traditional (and non-biodegradable) polymers such as PP, PS, PE, PET, etc. which may contain additive(s) claimed to promote biodegradation. See “Other Resources” for further information.

## Biobased - Made from Plants - Plant Based

Being made from renewable resources (e.g. plants) does not mean that it is also compostable. USDA, for example, has developed the BioPreferred Program where products must meet specifications to show that renewable resources were used in part, or in whole, to create a product. For compostability, look for the BPI or other applicable facility certification/labels (e.g. Cedar Grove), or ensure the product(s) is compliant with ASTM D6400/D6868 Standards.



## Why?

- Using **Compostable** food serviceware will allow for greater food waste diversion.
- Using **Compostable** food serviceware can help municipalities in reaching zero waste goals.
- Putting the wrong products in the composting stream can result in increased processing and collection costs and contamination of our soil and water.

## Please choose appropriate food serviceware to support food scraps diversion

1. Check with your local composting facility or hauler to ensure which products they accept.
2. Make sure to buy/use properly labeled food serviceware so that customers and employees can distinguish the non-compostable from **Compostable** food serviceware.





\*For illustration purposes only, not to scale

## Compostable Certification

BPI certification (and other compost facility approvals) is based on compliance with the ASTM Standard. These standards establish the requirements for plastic and plastic coated products to satisfactorily be composted in industrial aerobic composting facilities. For more information on ASTM Standards:

<http://www.astm.org/Standards/D6400.htm>

<http://www.astm.org/Standards/D6868.htm>

### Other resources

BPI List of Certified (to ASTM Standards) food serviceware fully categorized by SKU, size, color, etc.

<http://products.bpiworld.org/companies/category/foodservice>

List of food serviceware tested and accepted by Cedar Grove

<http://cedar-grove.com/commercial/accepted-items>

A **free** directory of composting facilities throughout North America

<http://www.findacomposter.com/>

USCC compostable task force

<http://compostingcouncil.org/compostable-plastics-task-force/>

USCC Compostable plastics toolkit

<http://www.cptoolkit.org/>

Information regarding degradable additives

[http://www.bpiworld.org/BPI\\_Position\\_On\\_Degradable\\_Additives](http://www.bpiworld.org/BPI_Position_On_Degradable_Additives)