



Catering & packaging ware info sheet

Catering:

Clear PLA (polylactic acid) cups, containers & straws

- Polylactic acid (PLA) is a biodegradable polymer derived from renewable resources, developed by Cargill. It is made using the carbon stored in starch plants (usually corn) and other elements in these plants, which through a process of bacterial fermentation are made into a natural plastic.
- PLA is particularly attractive as a sustainable alternative to petrochemical-derived products, since the lactate from which it is ultimately produced can be derived from the fermentation of agricultural by-products such as corn starch or other starch-rich substances like maize, sugar or wheat.
- Being biodegradable, PLA can also be employed in the preparation of bioplastic, useful for producing loose-fill packaging, compost bags, food packaging and disposable tableware. PLA is also currently used in a number of biomedical applications eg. sutures, dialysis media & drug delivery devices.
- One of the little known facts about PLA is that it is quite an old material, discovered in the 1890s, but it has only now found a universal route to market in the form of bio-degradable packaging. PLA is more expensive than many petroleum-derived commodity plastics, but its price has been falling as more production comes online. We will however have to wait a little longer before all plastics are replaced by PLA, as there is a significant lack in "cracking plants", with the next one not coming on stream until 2008.
- Packaging made from PLA is bio-degradable and reverts in less than 60 days in ideal conditions, namely in a commercial composting facility PLA is not suitable to use for hot food or drink, but can be frozen.

Cornstarch Cutlery

The new 300A cutlery is an ecologically and environmentally friendly disposable cutlery made from a starch based polymer and chalk. Its performance is similar to conventional thermoplastics but being based on corn starch, is completely biodegradable in a biologically active environment. The rate of biodegradation depends on the size and shape of the article but is similar to the one usually reached by organic waste when composted in a commercial composting facility.

Areca Palm Sheath bio-plates & bowls

Perfect for every occasion. Made from naturally fallen Areca leaf sheaths.

- 100% natural and chemical free
- 100% biodegradeable and compostable
- Hygienic
- Oil and water resistant
- Suitable for oven and microwave



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Sugarcane fibre bowls, plates & cups

Sugarcane fibre tableware is similar in usage to conventional paper products, but with several advantages:

- They are made from a readily renewable (and sustainable) resource instead of woodchips.
- The products are uncoated (ie no plastic) and yet are still suitable for hot food and drinks
- They are bleached by oxygen only using an Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) process.

PLA coated paper coffee cups

The perfect alternative to the plastic coated take-away coffee cup. Basically identical in function and form, but 100% biodegradable and compostable. Compostable PLA lids are also available – fully compostable.

EATware fibre lunch boxes & lids

EATware is produced using a unique patented mechanical pulping system that extracts cellulose fibres from agricultural residues or plants with a short life cycle, like sugar cane and bamboo, through mechanical action instead of chemical means. Absolutely chlorine- and sulphur-free, this system not only causes minimal environmental hazard but also minimises costs by eliminating pollution charges and the need for expensive chemicals.

- Resistant to oil and water, even at high temperature
- Biodegradable & compostable (to European EN13432 standard)
- FDA approved for food contact (US FDA 21 CFR 176.170, US FDA 21 CFR 178.3800)
- Safe for microwave ovens; safe for hot water
- Suitable for refrigeration (juicy foods can be refrigerated for at least 3 days)
- Suitable for freezer (dry foods will last for as long as 3 months)
- Easy disposal - recyclable and compostable

Packaging:

PLA containers & lids, Sugarcane lunch-boxes and lids, Eatware lunch-boxes and lids (see information above for all)

BioCling biodegradable & breathable cling wrap

Biodegradable & breathable BioCling is environmentally friendly and is excellent at maintaining the freshness of a wide range of food products. Made from polyester urethane and approved by the FDA & SGS for food contact, it contains no plasticizers or additives. The material degrades in sunlight, moisture and is consumed by micro-organisms found in soil. No dioxins are released if incinerated. Suitable for both food application and pallet wrap, this cling wrap is available in boxes with cutter; either 30cm or 40cm X 300metres (also stretches out to 200% of it's length).



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