



## Catering ware: detailed information

### Clear PLA (polylactic acid) cups, deli 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.

### Cutlery

- Biodegradable 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. Certified compostable to DIN EN 13432 (European standard) and ASTM D6400 (US standard)
- PLA cutlery is made from 100% plant based bioplastic, and is biodegradable and compostable in a commercial compost facility. If the cutlery ends up in landfill, it still has upstream environmental benefits, such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions and reduced dependence on fossil fuels. To gain maximum advantage though, the compost bin (industrial compost) is the recommended destination, completing a cycle by enriching the earth that helped produce it.
- PSM cutlery is made from a blend of 80% starch with 20% conventional plastic. It offers all the functionality of traditional disposable plastic cutlery but less greenhouse gases are created in its production. It is biodegradable but not compostable.

### Areca palm leaf plates & bowls

- 100% chemical free, made from naturally fallen Areca leaf sheaths



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- 100% biodegradable and compostable
- Hygienic
- Oil and water resistant
- Suitable for oven and microwave

### **Sugarcane fibre & Biocane bowls, plates & cups**

- Sugarcane fibre products are made from bagasse, the pulp material remaining after the extraction of the sugar-bearing juice from sugarcane. This fibre by-product can be turned into products normally made from plastic or paper and avoids the pollution from the normal burning of sugarcane pulp after juice extraction. Sugarcane is a readily renewable resource.
- These products have no plastic or wax coating and are a far superior alternative to polystyrene, plastic and paper products. They are either unbleached or bleached by oxygen only which is known as an Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) process.
- The sugarcane fibre products are biodegradable and compostable. These products will usually biodegrade within 30 days in a commercial composting facility and 90 days in a home composting system.

### **PLA coated paper coffee cups & soup cups**

- Unlike traditional paper cups that use a petroleum-based plastic lining the BioCup uses PLA - a compostable corn-based polymer lining.
- Not only is PLA manufactured from a renewable resource - corn, the process to produce PLA uses 60% less greenhouse gas than conventional plastic.
- The end product is 100% biodegradable and compostable. It is fully renewable, EN13432 certified compostable, and leaves a smaller environmental footprint.
- BioCup lids are also made from PLA and are also compostable and biodegradable

### **BioCling food wrap**

- Conventional food cling wrap is mainly made from PVC which does not biodegrade and can contain harmful chemicals. BioCling compostable stretch wrap is made of aliphatic copolyesters and is FDA approved for food contact.
- With a tensile strength 5 to 10 times that of conventional cling wrap, the film can be stretched 300% without breaking and is suitable for use in a wide range of catering applications.
- The film has been proven to suppress the growth of anaerobic bacteria.
- 100% Bio-degradable resin
- Finished products have a breathing effect through micro-pores
- No Environmental hormones generated
- No Freezer Burn



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## **Carry & rubbish bags: detailed information**

### **BioPlastic Bag**

- Made from certified compostable bioplastics, cornstarch bags safely turn into healthy compost in just 12 weeks.
- They can also be discarded within some domestic food-waste bins, collected by some councils (check first with your council).
- The bags ultimately turn into carbon dioxide, water, and non-toxic raw materials.
- One feature of the compostable starch based bags is that they "breathe" without leaking. This unique benefit allows heat and moisture to evaporate, which keeps food "fresher" longer.

## **Paper consumables: detailed information**

### **Toilet tissue, tissues, lunch napkins, and kitchen towel**

- Our range of 100% post-consumer recycled paper consumables is made by Queensland tissue, which achieved the 'Good Environmental Choice - Australia' label in June 2008.
- Other features:
  - Totally Australian owned and operated
  - Products are made from post-consumer waste such as waste paper, meaning less waste goes to landfill
  - Products are oxygen bleached only (not chlorine bleached)
  - The small amount of waste generated is recycled as garden compost
  - Using post-consumer recycled waste means that less energy and water are required to manufacture



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