



# Event Packaging Guidelines

For event organisers and vendors  
in the Wellington Region



# Compostable Food Packaging Materials

Capital Compost is a Wellington based commercial compost site accepting some compostable serviceware packaging from events. The materials must be collected by Envirowaste Kai to Compost, or Organic Waste Management. Currently they can collect from events in Wellington City, Hutt City and Porirua City. Events held in other Council areas: please contact your local Waste Minimisation Officer to discuss options available. Zero contamination is accepted.

**Materials accepted into the commercial compost include certified food packaging products made from:**



**Unlined paper & cardboard**



**Potato starch**



**Sugarcane or Bagasse**



**Pine**



**Soft/thin bamboo materials & cutlery**



**Vegetable wax coated paper**

*This is the only greaseproof paper which can be composted*

## No Bioplastics/Polylactic Acid (PLA)

E.g. Compostable coffee cups and lids

## No Compostable/Biodegradable/Cornstarch Bags

## Branding must use non-toxic inks

E.g. soy based inks/water based ink stamps

These products need to meet one of the following global standards to ensure the claims are true:



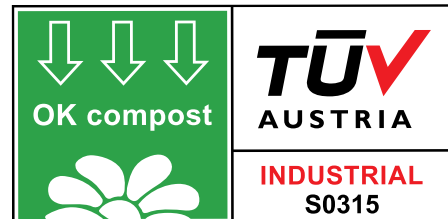
AS 4736



EN 13432



ASTM D  
6400 or 6868



EN 13432

# Compost product examples



## Cutlery

- **Wooden** (timber or bamboo). Knives, forks & spoons.
- **Wooden chopsticks and skewers** (although a safety risk) are also approved in this category.

Pine cutlery is the easiest of the cutlery products to break down in composting environments at a very competitive price.



## Plates/Bowls

- **Sugar cane or "bagasse" plate.** Also come in bowls, clams and most shapes of food servery packaging (preferred without lid).

These plates are made of sugar cane pressed fibres and look a bit like cardboard. They are a cost effective servery item and can be accessed through most packaging retailers. They are the most widely used item for food served at events.



## Paper Drinking Straws

- **Aardvark Jumbo White Paper Straw** (un-inked, but inked also permitted – as per picture).

These straws are made from food-grade recycled paper and can be found at most packaging retailers. They use soy based inks and are 100% recycled paper. They are quite suitable as a straw for a thin drink (not smoothie/thickshake) and hold their shape well. They come in a range of colours and designs.



## Napkins

- **Recycled paper napkins**, natural coloured.

These kraft coloured paper napkins are made from recycled paper. They are food grade and free of toxic dyes. These are preferred for composting over coloured napkins. These natural/kraft coloured napkins are widely available at packaging retailers and wholesalers and are extremely cost-effective.



## Single use bags

- **Kraft paper bags.**  
FLAT (E.g. for jerky or similar)  
Or WITH HANDLE E.g. 178mm (3.6L volume).

These bags are made from recycled paper and are non-bleached or dyed. They are a cost-effective alternative to carry-bags. They are widely available from most packaging suppliers in the flat version and the carry bag version. Vendors can use a water-based ink stamp to brand bags if necessary.



## Pine boats

- **Pine servery.** Come in a range of sizes and shapes such as cones, boats, trays and platters.

Pine servery can be a great way of presenting tapas style or finger food. It does also come in a flat tray.





Commercial Compost



Home Compost



Home Worm Farm



## Potatopak

- **E.g. 350ml bowl** (12 x 4.5 cm)  
Comes in a range of colours, shapes and sizes.

Potatopak products are made from potatoes and have been a kiwi innovation. They break down readily and quickly when exposed to any sort of water-based moisture which makes them suitable for serving dry products or oily products. Salads are not suitable due to their moisture content.



## Hot & Crispy pouch

- **Specially designed compostable pouches** to keep burgers/sandwiches hot.
- **Sandwich wrap** with vegetable wax coated paper.

The hot and crispy pouch can replace the usually non-recyclable tin foil used in food servery, a great innovation. Sandwich wrap contains a vegetable wax lining and is the only greaseproof paper which can be composted.



## Noodle or salad shallow box

- **With water-based lining.**  
Hot or cold. Comes in range of sizes.

This shallow cardboard box has a water based lining. This particular product from "Friendlypak" differs to most similar products on the market which usually have a plastic lining which makes them neither recyclable nor compostable in Wellington.



## Cardboard trays

- **With no lining.** Pizza boxes also permitted.

Food boxes made from kraft cardboard with no lining.

There are other cardboard-only products in the market which have no lining although this can be hard to identify.





# Materials accepted for recycling at events

Materials need to be clean to be recycled. If recycling is very dirty, it is considered contaminated and must be landfilled. The best products for food packaging are compostable, that way the food residue can be composted with the packaging.



**Plastic**

Contact your local council for more information about which types can be accepted



**Tins & cans**



**Glass bottles & jars**

No lids



**Cardboard**



**Paper**

**Carterton District Council**  
info@cdc.govt.nz

**Hutt City Council**  
Sustainability@huttcity.govt.nz

**Kapiti Coast District Council**  
waste@kapiticoast.govt.nz

**Masterton District Council**  
mdc@mstn.govt.nz

**Porirua City Council**  
enquiries@porirua.govt.nz

**South Wairarapa District Council**  
enquiries@swdc.govt.nz

**Upper Hutt City Council**  
askus@uhcc.govt.nz

**Wellington City Council**  
waste.education@wcc.govt.nz

# Products that cannot be recycled or composted

There are different reasons why some products can't be recycled or composted. For example, some types of compostable materials cannot be easily processed at a commercial composting site. Other products are made from two or more materials making them difficult to recycle.



## Plastics

*E.g. Single use bags, cling film, straws, polystyrene and soft plastics (contact your local Council for more information)*



## Paper or cardboard lined with plastic, foil or wax

*Including drink cartons*



## Compostable/plant based "hard" plastics

*For example products made from PLA (polylactic acid) or bamboo, including water bottles, cups, smoothie containers and lids, straws, and cutlery*



## Contaminated recycling

*E.g. from food*



## Aluminium foil

**These products are neither compostable or recyclable, therefore are considered as rubbish in the Wellington Region for the following reasons:**

- 1** They are double layer products E.g. that are paper with a plastic lining
- 2** They are made of a type of plastic/material that is not currently accepted by local recyclers/ composters
- 3** They get stuck in machinery or are unsuitable for the standard recycling process
- 4** They are dirty therefore create contamination

