

# 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](http://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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