

WHAT DOES YOUR COFFEE CUP SAY?

RECYCLING YOUR COFFEE CUP: PERCEPTION VS REALITY

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PE LINED CUPS

Polyethylene, GreenPE is derived from non fossil based sources.

Conventional single use cups used by all major chains, e.g. Costa, McDonald's, Starbucks etc.



PERCEPTION

Many people think these cannot be recycled.

REALITY

All major retailers can recycle cups in-store.

All members of the National Cup Recycling Scheme (NCRS) will accept these cups in addition to many other recycling points.

There is enough recycling capacity within the UK to recycle every single cup used.

Find out how your cup is recycled at www.cupcycling.co.uk.

PLA LINED CUPS / COMPOSTABLE

PLA (Polylactic Acid) lined cups have a plant-based plastic lining made from renewable sources, such as sugarcane starch or bamboo.



PERCEPTION

Compostable eco-friendly alternative to conventional disposable cups.

REALITY

Check carefully, most are not suited to home composting and should be taken to an industrial composting facility that accepts food packaging* or recyclable if collected at the members of the NCRS.

**not all facilities do*

BIODEGRADABLE

Sometimes also mentioned alongside Compostable.



PERCEPTION

Will break-down in the environment.

REALITY

Will eventually break down, but under no specific time frame.

Dispose of in general waste or use a service such as RecycleBox by First Mile.¹

RECYCLABLE / PLASTIC FREE

Lined with a barrier coating suitable for drinks.



PERCEPTION

Can be disposed of with normal paper waste

REALITY

The message is confusing, as these cups would be rejected as a contaminant if disposed of with normal paper waste.