



BIO-BASED FOOD PACKAGING



Bio-based plastic packaging is often considered ECO-HEROES taking on regular plastic to save the planet from plastic pollution.

But there are some important issues you should know:

Bio-based plastics are still plastics even though they derive from plant biomass.

Plastics



bio-based

Made fully or partially from:



regular

Made using petrochemicals



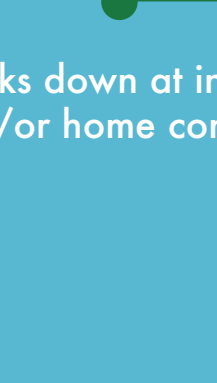
These symbols will help you identify bio-based packaging:



Bio-based packaging does not equal biodegradable or compostable.

Why?

Due to the chemical composition of the bio-based plastic material. Also some of the bio-based packaging can be partially made of petrochemicals like regular plastics.



Breaks down at industrial and/or home conditions



May need special industrial conditions to decompose

These labels can help you recognize if packaging is:

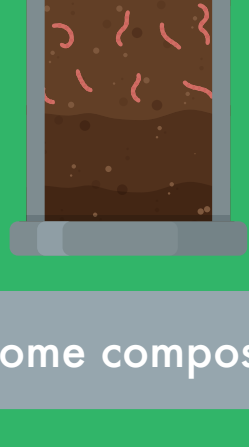
compostable

biodegradable

Depending on the labelling you should dispose your bio-based plastic food packaging in a different container:



A bag/container with food residues



Home compost

Bio-based packaging is labelled as biodegradable or compostable.

If your packaging needs **industrial conditions** to decompose, place it into the container where you usually throw away food residues.

Look for labels:



Rarely food packaging is intended for home compost.

If your packaging can be **home composted** place it into your compost bins or your backyard.

Look for labels:



A bag/container for regular plastics



Mixed/General waste

Most bio-based plastic packaging is not intended for recycling.

Except BioPET and BioPE, because they are chemically identical to their petrochemical versions.

Look for labels:



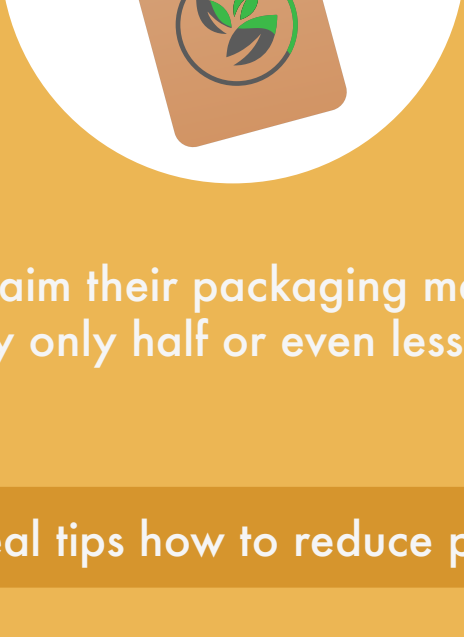
In some regions/countries, regardless of labelling, bio-based plastic packaging is placed into mixed/general waste containers

e.g. Denmark

REMEMBER!

Always check the instructions from your local waste management company!

BE AWARE ABOUT GREENWASHING!



Some companies claim their packaging material is bio-based, when actually only half or even less is bio-based.

Here are some real tips how to reduce plastics pollution:



look carefully at the labelling



sort the packaging properly



bring your own cups to your coffee shop