

Types of material acceptable

Bagasse

A tough fiber derived from crushed sugar cane remaining after the sugar juice has been extracted. Foodservice items made from bagasse are similar to styrofoam, but are compostable and biodegradable, and are said to withstand hot liquids.

Polyactic acid (PLA)

Similar to clear plastics. PLA is derived from glucose from agricultural crops such as corn, and is fully biodegradable, and compostable *in a commercial composting facility*. Not designed for use with extremely hot food.

Cereplast

A biodegradable resin made from corn and potato starch. Cereplast qualifies as a "compostable" plastic, which means it composts more readily than "biodegradable" bioplastic. It was created to be a cost competitive alternative to plastic. Products are sold under the brand name Nat-Ur. Cereplast can be purchased from Sysco SF (Donna Haymie 510-226-3040) Also check out website <http://www.nat-urstore.com/>

Paper widely available

Bioplastics are a new generation of biodegradable & compostable plastics, derived from renewable raw materials such as starch (e.g. corn, potato, tapioca etc), cellulose, soy protein, lactic acid etc., not hazardous in production and decompose back to carbon dioxide, water, biomass etc. in the environment when discarded. Corn starch is currently the main raw material being used in the manufacture of bioplastic resins. **Mater-Bi** (main component corn-starch), and **PolyActide** (PLA) (made from corn-starch as well) are currently the 2 main resins (raw materials), being used today in the production of compostable & biodegradable plastics and are certified for compostability under standards set by international organizations. However, other resins are coming into the market made from potato starch, soybean protein, cellulose etc. Most of these are currently not certified for compostability, though some are for biodegradability. The field of bioplastics is constantly evolving with new materials and technologies being worked on and being brought to market.)

Wood

Look for the words biodegradable and compostable!

Some Distributors

Excellent Packaging and Supply Company

<http://www.excellentpackaging.com/pages/1/index.htm>

Allen King 510-501-3307

World Centric

<http://www.worldcentric.org>

Their products are all biodegradable and compostable. They are not recyclable, except for the paper products. They carry plates, cups, soup bowls, takeout containers and trays made from bagasse, and knives, forks and spoons made from corn & potato starch, plus recycled paper products.

Green Earth Office Supply

<http://greenearthofficesupply.stores.yahoo.net/kitsup.html>

Nature Works

http://www.natureworksllc.com/corporate/nw_pack_food.asp

Eco-Products

<http://www.ecoproducts.com>

Biodegradable Store

<http://www.biodegradablestore.com>

Green Home environmental store

<http://www.greenhome.com>

Sinless Buying

<http://www.sinlessbuying.com>

Food Packaging Solutions, Inc.

<http://www.fpspack.com/>

Biodegradable Store

<http://www.biodegradablestore.com/>

Treecycle Recycled Paper. Office supplies, tissue products and food service products.
www.treecycle.com

Mansfield Paper Co.

<http://www.mansfieldpaper.com/environmentallysafe.html>

M. Brenmar Company

<http://www.brenmarco.com/supermarket/Superindex/organic.html>

Note their NatureWorks PLA represents only a small portion of their catalog—many other products are NOT recyclable/biodegradable/compostable