

# SHOULD I COMPOST OR RECYCLE?

## TAKE-OUT FOOD CONTAINERS AND OTHER FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS (PLATES, BOWLS, CUPS, ETC.)

Many food service products can be composted or recycled. At restaurants, posters and signage show you what to compost and what to recycle. At home, use this flyer to know where it goes.



### Put these items in your compost:

Uncoated paper containers, plates, bowls, and pizza boxes are compostable.



Items labeled "Compostable," and have a certification mark such as BPI, TÜV, or CMA, go in the food and yard waste.



Look for the word "compostable" and a certification mark on "plastic-like" items.



**"Plastic-like" compostable products can be COMPOSTED, but they CANNOT BE RECYCLED.**

### Put these items in your recycling:

Empty, clean, and dry paper items with a shiny (plastic) coating.



Empty, clean, and dry rigid plastic containers are recyclable.

Items marked "compostable," "BPI," or "PLA" are **NOT** recyclable.



**Petroleum-based plastics can be RECYCLED, but they CANNOT BE COMPOSTED.**

**Is it compostable or not? Look for the word "Compostable" and a certification mark.**

Don't be fooled by misleading claims like "plant-based" or "biodegradable," as these terms do not mean they will break down at a compost facility. These products may even create plastic pollution in the environment if they do go to a compost facility, so please put these in the garbage if they are not recyclable.



To learn more and look up specific items, visit: [seattle.gov/utilities/wheredoesitgo/](http://seattle.gov/utilities/wheredoesitgo/)