

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Making hospitality happen for a more sustainable future



What makes a disposable packaging product recyclable?



Understand the terminology:

It's important to recognise the difference between the terms: *recyclable* and *recycled*.

Recyclable: means that a product or material is capable of being recycled under certain conditions. A product or material can either be widely recyclable or require localised/specialised recycling.

Recycled: means that a recyclable product or material is made from recycled material - the percentage of recycled content might vary.

Avoid the confusion:

In theory all packaging products are recyclable. However, just because a product or material is theoretically recyclable it does not mean that it will actually be recycled at its end-of-life.

Some packaging products, such as plastic bottles or tumblers, are classed as widely recyclable because when they are placed in a mixed recycling bin they will be recycled. Other packaging products, such as paper cups, will only be recycled if disposed of and collected in a specific way.

The importance of volume, quality and material value:

A disposable packaging product is more likely to be recycled if there is sufficient volume of it, it is of good quality and if it has a high material value on the market.

Large Volume + Good Quality + High Material Value = Recyclable

Volume: Sufficient volume of product material (by weight) must move through the waste management system to justify the cost of segregating it during the sorting process.

Quality: Product material must be the right shape, size and colour, with minimal food contamination and made from good quality material.

Material Value: The resale value of the product material must be high enough to cover the costs incurred recycling it - the waste provider must be profitable to remain sustainable.



catering supplies

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