

# SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Making hospitality happen for a more sustainable future



## What is compostable packaging and is it a sustainable choice?



### Compostable criteria:

Compostable packaging products must be both:

- **Made from renewable resources**
- **Compostable at its end-of-life**

Compostable packaging often carries the EN13432 certification as evidence that it will breakdown in an In Vessel Composter (IVC) within 12 weeks.

### Compostable material types:

Compostable packaging is usually made from:

- **PLA (polylactic acid)**
- **Bagasse**
- **Certified board/paper**

PLA is a type of plastic, made from plants and often called a bio-plastic. PLA, bagasse and paper/board come from renewable resources.

### The importance of end-of-life management:

Both PLA and bagasse compostable packaging need to be sent to an In Vessel Composter (IVC) for processing, where it can be successfully turned into compost to enrich soil for crop production.

It is a common misconception that all compostable packaging can be processed by Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facilities - but this is *not* the case.

As home composting varies significantly between households, we currently do not recommend this as a composting route for compostable packaging.

Compostable packaging made from PLA that is not managed correctly at its end-of-life, will react in the same way as traditional fossil-based plastics and can pollute both marine and land environments.



catering supplies

For more information please contact Bunzl Catering Supplies:

#### REGIONAL (UK)

Telesales Team  
All Customer Sectors  
T: 0845 604 1454  
regional@bunzl.co.uk

#### NATIONAL (NORTH)

Contract Catering  
and Healthcare  
T: 0845 301 7610  
nationalccnorth@bunzlcatering.co.uk

#### NATIONAL (SOUTH)

Hotels, Pubs, Restaurants,  
Leisure, Travel and Retail  
T: 0845 301 7607  
nationalccsouth@bunzlcatering.co.uk