



WHAT'S IN YOUR COFFEE CUP?



We have the power to make a difference with our daily choices. By choosing reusable or compostable cups, you can reduce the amount of waste going into landfill and the environment.

SINGLE USE:
Made from petroleum
based materials^{2,4}



DEGRADABLE

Takes **20 - 40 years to break down**.^{1,5} Contains chemical additives so the plastic breaks down quicker than normal plastics.^{2,5} Also Breaks up into thousands of tiny plastics – microplastics^{2,4,5}

! Say NO to single use items and either enjoy your coffee in store, or in a reusable cup!

SINGLE USE:
Made from plant-based
(corn or wheat starch) or
petroleum based materials^{1,2,4}



BIODEGRADABLE

Takes **20 - 40 years to break down**.¹ If sent to landfill, they will break down without oxygen to produce methane (greenhouse gas with a warming capacity 21x more powerful than CO₂!).³ Also breaks up into thousands of tiny plastics – microplastics^{1,2}

! Say NO to single use items and either enjoy your coffee in store, or in a reusable cup!

SINGLE USE:
Made from plant -
based materials (corn
or wheat starch)^{2,4}



COMPOSTABLE

Takes **2 - 12 months to break down**.³ Some items break down in backyard composting systems, but many need specific conditions; above 50°C, exposure to UV light; to break down (only available in commercial composting systems)² – check with the manufacturer^{2,3,5}

! Say NO to single use items and either enjoy your coffee in store, or in a reusable cup!

SINGLE USE:
Made from various materials
(glass, plastic, metal) that can be
recycled at the end of its life⁵



REUSABLE

Can be used thousands of times!
Time to break down will vary depending on the product, however most can be recycled. **Note:** after 15 uses, many reusable cups start 'paying for themselves' in regards to their environmental impact.²

! Keep using your reusable takeaway cup, you awesome human!



Want to know more about how you can help reefs from home? Head to www.reefcheckaustralia.org

¹ BioPak. (2019). BioPak FAQ. Retrieved from www.biopak.com.au/support/faq/ | ² Kayla, A. (2017, April 12). Takeaway Coffee Cups: Exactly How Recyclable And Biodegradable Are They? Retrieved from www.millionwomen.com.au/blog/takeaway-coffee-cups-issues-unwrapped/ | ³ Mannix, L. (2017, July 1). The compostable cup you can't compost, and the trouble with our recycling system. Retrieved from www.smh.com.au/environment/the-compostable-cup-you-cant-compost-and-the-trouble-with-our-recycling-system-20170701-gx2kpu.html | ⁴ Trinetta, V. (2016). Biodegradable Packaging. Reference Module in Food Science. doi:10.1016/b978-0-08-100596-5.03351-5 | ⁵ Yuhui, M. (2018). Problems and Resolutions in Dealing with Waste Disposable Paper Cups. Science Progress, 101(1), 1-7. doi:10.3184/003686017X15129981721365