

# Washington State Compostable Product Labeling

## For restaurants and businesses

Labeling requirements do not apply to:



Products made from wood.

Paper and fiber-based items with **no plastic**.

Compostable items sold or given to people must have:



Green, beige, or brown coloring, tinting, or other markings such as stripes.



The word **compostable** – All other versions of this word are banned, including “biodegradable.”



The logo of a third-party certifier who verified the product meets scientific standards for industrial composting.

Report mislabeled products and Ecology will contact the producer



**(360) 407-6000 | [organics@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:organics@ecy.wa.gov) | [Ecology.wa.gov/compostable-labeling](https://ecology.wa.gov/compostable-labeling)**

To request ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 260-742-9874, by email at [organics@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:organics@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

If you speak a non-English language, free language services are available. Call 564-233-1065.

# Washington State Standards for Labeling Compostable Products

## Restaurant and business notes

- All items claiming to be compostable in Washington State must be labeled according to law.
- This includes items sold, offered for sale, or given to customers, such as containers with to-go food.
- Wood and fiber-based items do not need the labeling marks, if there is no plastic in the product.
- Compostable products should be listed on a producer's Declaration of Compliance with Ecology.
- Producers are responsible for compliance, but a **business can be fined for bringing non-compliant products into the state.**
- Compostable products must be certified by a third-party and have their logo. This shows the product meets the scientific standards for composting at a facility.
- Compostable products are **not accepted at all facilities. Check locally beforehand.**
- **No product can be labeled biodegradable, oxo-degradable, degradable, decomposable, or a similar term. This is considered "greenwashing."**
- Non-compostable film bags **cannot use the colors green, beige, or brown** except in limited circumstances.
- People can report mislabeled products to Ecology online. Ecology staff will contact the manufacturer.

## Questions?

[organics@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:organics@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-6000

**Protect compost facilities, their workers, and the environment.**

**Build customer trust.**



Visit our website for information, resources and to report mislabeled products.



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