



# COMPOSTABLE FOOD SERVICEWARE BUYING GUIDE

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# COMPOSTABLE FOOD SERVICWARE BUYING GUIDE

## PURPOSE

The goal of this buying guide is to encourage restaurants and other food service businesses to use non-plastic disposable food serviceware when durable serviceware is not an option. This guide is a living document which will be updated periodically as new products become available.

In creating this guide, we chose disposable serviceware products with minimal adverse environmental and human health effects, to the best of our knowledge. These products are alternatives to petroleum-based plastic, which is a known human and environmental health hazard. Resources we used to evaluate products are provided below.

This guide is not an endorsement of these products. Only you can determine if these products meet your needs; most vendors do offer samples to help you evaluate products. We welcome your comments and suggestions since this guide is a work in progress. Please email us at [hello@takecarecapcod.org](mailto:hello@takecarecapcod.org).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Reusable/durable washable serviceware is the most sustainable option for in-house and nearby dining. Durables use far less energy and resources over their lifetime, reduce waste sent to the landfill, and reduce litter in our streets, waterways, and oceans. For ideas and guidance on incorporating durable serviceware into your business, download the *Reusable Food Serviceware Guide 2015* from the [RethinkDisposable.org](http://RethinkDisposable.org) website.

When reusables are not an option, single-use compostable serviceware is the next-best sustainable option, when composted along with your food waste. We recommend compostable products made from lined paperboard, molded fiber lined with PLA (a plant-based plastic substitute), bamboo, palm leaf, birch wood, and PLA (cutlery only).

PLA is compostable in industrial/commercial compost facilities only, due to the high temperatures needed for PLA to break down. However, too much PLA can be problematic for composting operations. We recommend avoiding PLA cups and food containers, and only using PLA cutlery, cup lids, and PLA-lined products.



The Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA) provides field disintegration testing for food service products. Commercial composters accept compostable products that are certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI). [Black Earth](http://BlackEarth.com) is a commercial and residential compost hauler planning to start service on Cape Cod in 2020.

## BUYING GUIDE CONTENT

This version of the buying guide provides a few examples of compostable cold & hot cups, soup containers, plates, food trays/boats, to-go food containers, cutlery, food/deli wrap, cutlery, and straws.

The product information and pricing listed is from the vendor links provided as of June 2020. The pricing is per item for the quantity specified. In the future we would like to add more products, further research food serviceware certifications, and provide bulk-buying pricing from local distributors. We also hope to incorporate your feedback on the products listed and on products that you recommend.

## COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS DO'S & DON'TS

CHOOSE	AVOID
<p>Products that are BPI and/or CMA certified.</p>  	<p>Products that claim to be “degradable” or “biodegradable” or make vague claims that are not certified by a third party.</p>
<p><b>Paperboard</b> products made from clay-coated paper, or lined with a bio-wax or PLA</p>	<p><b>Paperboard</b> products lined with plastic, which are not compostable</p>
<p><b>Molded Fiber</b> products lined with PLA</p>	<p><b>Unlined Molded Fiber</b>, which is usually treated with unsafe fluorinated chemicals (PFAS)</p>
<p><b>Bamboo, Palm leaf, or Birch wood</b> products, which are naturally moisture proof</p>	<p>Clear <b>PLA cups and food containers</b> because compost farms can't handle too much of it and because it can contaminate recycling</p>
<p><b>Cutlery made from PLA</b> as a lower cost alternative to bamboo, palm leaf, or birch wood.</p>	<p><b>Plastic-lined paper products or plastic cutlery</b>, which contaminates compost</p>

### GLOSSARY

PLA - Polylactic Acid, plant-based plastic substitute made from fermented starch such as corn

PFAS - per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

BIO-WAX - plant-based wax from soy or bees, alternative to petroleum-based wax

KRAFT PAPER - unbleached paper, chlorine-free

RENEWABLE RESOURCE - made from plants, not petroleum-based

RECYCLED CONTENT - percent of recycled content used in addition to new material

### CERTIFICATIONS

BPI - Biodegradable Products Institute

CMA - Compost Manufacturers Association

FSC - Forest Stewardship Council

SFI - Sustainable Forestry Initiative

### SOURCES

[Biodegradable Products Institute \(BPI\)](#)

[Center for Environmental Health](#)

[Clean Production Action](#)

[Clean Water Action, ReThink Disposable](#)

[Compost Manufacturing Alliance](#)

### RESOURCES

[Cape and Islands Green](#)

[Product Stewardship Institute Restaurant Guide](#)

[Plastisphere Podcast: Confused about Bioplastics?](#)

## PRODUCT GUIDE

<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
<a href="#"><u>Bare by Solo Eco-Forward 12 oz. Wax Treated Printed Paper Cold Cup</u></a>	\$0.071/qty 2000	5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, & 22 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>Ecotainer® Paper Cold Cup, 12 oz, PLA coated</u></a>	\$0.08/qty 1000	12, 16, 22, 32 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>World Centric, Compostable Cold Cup, 12 oz, 100% Bamboo Paper, PLA lined</u></a>	\$0.103/ qty 1000	12, 16, 22 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>World Centric PLA Lid for 10-22 oz Paper Cup</u></a>	\$0.047/ qty 1000	Lid for 10-22 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>Earth Cup Insulated 12 oz Hot Cup, PLA lined</u></a>	\$0.10/qty 500	8,12,16,20 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>Kraft Earth Cup 12 oz Hot Cup, Single-wall, PLA lined</u></a>	\$0.06/qty 500	4,8,10,12,16,20 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>Earth Cup PLA Lid Fits 10-20 oz Earth Cups</u></a>	\$0.06/qty 500	10-20 oz		✓

<a href="#">Product Link</a>	<b>Vendor Pricing per Item</b>	<b>Product Sizing</b>	<b>Image</b>	<b>BPI/CMA Certified</b>
<a href="#">EcoProducts World Art™ Insulated Hot Cups, 12 oz, PLA lined</a>	\$0.19/qty 600	8,12,16,20 oz		✓
<a href="#">EcoProducts World Art™ Hot Cup 12 oz, PLA lined</a>	\$0.14/qty 1000	4,8,10,12,16,20 oz		✓
<a href="#">EcoProducts 10-20 oz. PLA Compostable Hot Cup Lid</a>	\$0.14/qty 800	10-20 oz		✓
<a href="#">EcoChoice 12 oz. Sleeveless Kraft Compostable Paper Hot Cup, PLA lined</a>	\$0.12/qty 500	8,10,12,16,20 oz		
<a href="#">EcoChoice 8-20 oz Translucent PLA Compostable Paper Hot Cup Lid</a>	\$0.06/qty 1000	8-20 oz		✓
<a href="#">World Centric 12 oz FSC® Paper Hot Cup - Kraft, PLA lined</a>	\$0.12/qty 1000	8,10,12,16,20 oz		✓
<a href="#">World Centric Fiber Sip Lid for 10-20 oz Hot Cups</a>	\$0.09/qty 1000	10-20 oz		✓
<a href="#">Stalkmarket® Planet+ Compostable Soup Container, PLA lined</a>	\$0.11/qty 1000	8 oz		✓

<a href="#"><i>Product Link</i></a>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
<a href="#">Stalkmarket® PLA lined Paper Lid for 8 oz Soup Container</a>	\$0.16/qty 500	8 oz		✓
<a href="#">Stalkmarket® PLA Lid for 8 oz Soup Container</a>	\$0.09/qty 1000	8 oz		✓
<a href="#">Bio &amp; Chic, Brown Kraft Soup Cup 8 oz with lid</a>	\$0.35/qty 500	8 oz		
<a href="#">Eco-Products, World Art™ Paper Soup Container, PLA lined</a>	\$0.146/qty 1000	8,12,16,32 oz		✓
<a href="#">Eco-Products, GreenStripe® Paper Food Container, PLA lined</a>	\$0.146/qty 1000	8, 12, 16 oz		✓
<a href="#">Eco-Products, EcoLid® for 8 - 10 oz. World Art™ Soup Containers, PLA</a>	\$0.126/qty 1000	8 -10 oz		✓
<a href="#">Eco-Products, 2lb Food Trays, Kraft, Green Leaf Print Design, Clay-coated paperboard</a>	\$0.096/qty 1000	1,2,3,4 & 5 lb		✓
<a href="#">World Centric Fiber To-Go Box, PLA lined</a>	\$0.299/qty 400	20 oz		✓

<a href="#"><i>Product Link</i></a>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
<a href="#"><u>World Centric Fiber To-Go Box, PLA lined</u></a>	\$0.352/qty 400	32 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>World Centric Fiber To-Go Box PLA Lid</u></a>	\$0.2797/qty 400	20 & 32 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>World Centric PLA-lined Fiber Tray</u></a>	\$0.380/qty 400	36 oz		✓
<a href="#"><u>World Centric Fiber Lid for 10" Fiber Tray</u></a>	\$0.237/qty 400	10"		✓
<a href="#"><u>World Centric PLA-lined Fiber Clamshell</u></a>	\$0.51/qty 300	8.8x8.2x2.9		✓
<a href="#"><u>World Centric PLA-lined Fiber Hoagie Box</u></a>	\$0.395/qty 500	9.2x6.4x3.1		✓
<a href="#"><u>Eco-Products, French Fry Scoop, Clay-coated paper</u></a>	\$0.166/qty 1000	4.6"		✓

<a href="#">Product Link</a>	<b>Vendor Pricing per Item</b>	<b>Product Sizing</b>	<b>Image</b>	<b>BPI/CMA Certified</b>
<a href="#">Solo MP9R-J8001 Symphony 8 1/2" Medium Weight Clay-coated Paper Plate</a>	\$0.073/qty 500	6, 7, 8.5"		
<a href="#">Transitions to Earth, PFAS-Free Compostable 6-inch Paper Plate, PLA lined</a>	\$0.199/qty 100	6"		
<a href="#">Transitions to Earth, PFAS-Free Compostable 9-inch Paper Plate, PLA lined</a>	\$0.199/qty 100	9"		
<a href="#">Bambu Veneerware, 5" square plate</a>	\$0.66/qty 100	5"		✓
<a href="#">Bambu Veneerware, 7" square plate</a>	\$0.80/qty 100	7"		✓
<a href="#">Birchware Square or Round Wooden Plate - 6"</a>	\$0.09/qty 1000	6"		
<a href="#">Birchware Round Wooden Plate - 9"</a>	\$0.36/qty 1000	9"		



<a href="#">Product Link</a>	<b>Vendor Pricing per Item</b>	<b>Product Sizing</b>	<b>Image</b>	<b>BPI/CMA Certified</b>
<a href="#">Durable Packaging 12" x 10 3/4" Green Choice Interfolded Kraft Unbleached Brown Soy Wax Deli Sheets</a>	\$4.95 box/12 box case	500 Sheets, 6, 8, 10, 12, & 15" X 10 3/4" sheets		
<a href="#">Bambu Veneerware, 6.5" fork, spoon, knife</a>	\$0.26/qty 250	6.5"		✓
<a href="#">6 Inch Wooden Cutlery Spoon, 100% A Grade white birch</a>	\$0.05/qty 2000	6"		
<a href="#">Birchware Classic Wooden Forks, Spoons, Knives - 6.5"</a>	\$0.047/qty 2500	6.5"		
<a href="#">Birchware Mini Wooden Spork, Spoon - 4"</a>	\$0.032/qty 1000	4"		
<a href="#">FirstChoice EcoNaturals WOODEN FORKS, SPOONS, Birch, 6.25"</a>	\$0.039/qty 2000	6.25"		
<a href="#">Patra® Eco-Dinnerware Palm Leaf Basic Forks, Knives, 6"</a>	\$0.099/qty 100	6"		

<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
<a href="#">Patra® Eco-Dinnerware Palm Leaf Basic Spoons, 6"</a>	\$0.129/qty 100	6"		
<a href="#">Footprint Paper Straws, Giant</a>	\$0.0236/qty 3000	7.75" Wrapped, 0.315" width		✓
<a href="#">Aardvark 7.75" WRAPPED WHITE JUMBO PAPER STRAWS, 0.227" width</a>	\$0.0458/qty 4100	8.5", 10"		✓