



COMPOSTABLE FOOD SERVICEWARE BUYING GUIDE

Updated 2024

Created in collaboration with
the Wellfleet Recycling Committee and Woods Hole Sea Grant



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@takecarecapecod.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 website.

When reusables are not an option, single-use compostable serviceware is the next-best sustainable option, when discarded properly. A compost bin should be used when disposing of compostable serviceware products and food scraps and should be sent to a composting facility. Compostable serviceware does not break down in a landfill, so it is important to keep compostable products separated from waste to ensure they are being effective. 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.


Commercial composting facilities are needed to process the materials back into compost, and ensuring that local commercial composting facilities accept the compostable serviceware products is essential. Commercial composters accept compostable products that are certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) and the Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA), an organization that provides field disintegration testing for food service products. [Black Earth](http://BlackEarth.com) is a commercial and residential compost hauler that has been servicing Cape Cod since 2020. Black Earth accepts BPI, CMA, or OK Compost/TUV Certified Compostable Forks, Bowls, Plates, and Cups.

BUYING GUIDE CONTENT

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

The product information and pricing listed is from the vendor links provided as of January 2024. The pricing is per item for the quantity buy 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
Products that are BPI and/or CMA certified. 	Products that claim to be “degradable” or “biodegradable” or make vague claims that are not certified by a third party.
Paperboard products made from clay-coated paper, or lined with a bio-wax or PLA	Paperboard products lined with plastic, which are not compostable
Molded Fiber products lined with PLA	Unlined Molded Fiber , which is usually treated with unsafe fluorinated chemicals (PFAS)
Bamboo, Palm leaf, or Birch wood products, which are naturally moisture proof	Clear PLA cups and food containers because compost farms can't handle too much of it and because it can contaminate recycling
Cutlery made from PLA as a lower cost alternative to bamboo, palm leaf, or birch wood.	Plastic-lined paper products or plastic cutlery , which contaminates compost

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

RESOURCES

[Cape and Islands Green](#)

[Product Stewardship Institute Restaurant Guide](#)

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](#)

PRODUCT GUIDE


<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
<u>Better Earth Single Wall Hot Cup, Compostable, 12 oz, PLA lined</u>	\$0.12/qty 1,000	4 oz, 8 oz, 10 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 20 oz,		✓
<u>Better Earth 10 oz- 24 oz Compostable Hot Cup Lid</u>	\$0.12/qty 1,000	Fits 10 oz - 24 oz cup		✓
<u>Ecotainer® Paper Cold Cup, 12 oz, PLA coated</u>	\$0.09/qty 1000	12 oz, 16 oz, 22 oz, 32 oz		✓
<u>Bare by Solo Eco-Forward 12 oz. Wax Treated Printed Paper Cold Cup</u>	\$0.13/qty 2000	5 oz, 7 oz, 9 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, & 22 oz		✓
<u>World Centric, Compostable Cold Cup, 12 oz, 100% Bamboo Paper, PLA lined</u>	\$0.12/ qty 1000	12 oz, 16 oz, 22 oz		✓

World Centric PLA Lid for 10-22 oz Paper Cup	\$0.05/ qty 1000	fits 10 oz - 22 oz cup		✓
Product Link	Vendor Pricing per Item	Product Sizing	Image	BPI/CMA Certified
World Centric 12 oz FSC® Paper Hot Cup - White, PLA lined	\$0.12/qty 1,000	8 oz, 10 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 20 oz		✓
World Centric Fiber Sip Lid for 10- 20 oz Hot Cups	\$0.07/qty 1,000	Fits 10 oz - 20 oz cup		✓
Earth Cup Insulated 12 oz Hot Cup, PLA lined	\$0.12/qty 500	8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 20 oz		✓
Kraft Earth Cup 12 oz Hot Cup, Single-wall, PLA lined	\$0.07/qty 1,000	8 oz, 10 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 20 oz		✓
Earth Cup PLA Lid Fits 10-20 oz Earth Cups	\$0.07/qty 1,000	Fits 10 oz - 20 oz cup		✓
EcoChoice 12 oz. Sleeveless Kraft Compostable Paper Hot Cup, PLA lined	\$0.14/qty 500	4 oz, 8 oz, 10 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 20 oz		✓

EcoChoice 8-20 oz Translucent PLA Compostable Paper Hot Cup Lid	\$0.06/qty 1000	Fits 8 oz - 20 oz cup		✓
<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Stalkmarket Planet + 12 oz Double Wall Hot Cup, PLA-Coated Inside	\$0.20/qty 1,000	8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 20 oz		✓
EcoProducts World Art™ Insulated Hot Cups, 12 oz, PLA lined	\$0.28/qty 600	8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 20 oz		✓
EcoProducts World Art™ Hot Cup 12 oz, PLA lined	\$0.20/qty 1000	4 oz, 8 oz, 10 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 20 oz		✓
EcoProducts 10-20 oz. PLA Compostable Hot Cup Lid	\$0.22/qty 800	Fits 10 oz - 20 oz cup		✓
Better Earth 16 oz Compostable Soup Cup, PLA-lined	\$0.17/qty 500	8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 24 oz, 32 oz		✓
Better Earth 12 oz-32 oz Compostable Food Container Lid CPLA	\$0.15/qty 1,000	Fits 12 oz - 32 oz container		✓


Ecotainer Paper Food Container, 12 oz.	\$0.12/qty 1,000	8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 32 oz		✓
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<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Ecotainer Hot White Paper Food Container Lid, 12 oz	\$0.08/qty 1,000	Fits 12 oz container		✓
Bare by Solo Eco-Forward Paper Food Cup, 12 oz, PLA-lined	\$0.22/ qty 1,200	8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz		✓
Bare by Solo Clear Vented Food Cup Lid, 12 oz.	\$0.10/qty 1,000	Fits 12 oz container		
World Centric 32 oz Compostable Wide NoTree Paper Fiber Bowls, Kraft, PLA-lined	\$0.24/qty 300	24 oz, 32 oz		✓
World Centric NoTree Paper Lids for wide bowls	\$0.32/qty 300	Fits 24 oz & 32 oz container		✓
Stalkmarket® Planet+ Compostable Soup Container, PLA lined	\$0.14/qty 1000	8 oz		✓

Stalkmarket® PLA lined Paper Lid for 8 oz Soup Container	\$0.23/qty 500	Fits 8 oz container		✓
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<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Stalkmarket® PLA Lid for 8 oz Soup Container	\$0.12/qty 1000	Fits 6 oz & 8 oz container		✓
Bio & Chic, Brown Kraft Soup Cup 8 oz with lid	\$0.43/qty 25	8 oz		
Eco-Products, World Art™ Paper Soup Container, PLA lined	\$0.22/qty 1000	8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, 32 oz		✓
Eco-Products, GreenStripe® Paper Food Container 26 oz, PLA lined	\$0.59/qty 300	26 oz, 32 oz, 48 oz		✓
Eco-Products, EcoLid® for 8 - 10 oz. World Art™ Soup Containers, PLA	\$0.20/qty 1000	Fits 8 oz - 10 oz container		✓
Better Earth Farmer's Fiber Collection Compostable Clamshell	\$0.45/qty 200	9" x 9"		✓

Better Earth Farmer's Fiber Collection Compostable Clamshell	\$0.27/qty 400	6" x 6"		✓
<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Better Earth 32 oz Fiber Rectangular Container, Eco Bamboo	\$0.21/qty 400	24 oz, 32 oz, 40 oz		✓
Better Earth 24 oz- 40 oz Fiber Rectangular Container Lid, Eco Bamboo	\$0.19/qty 400	Fits 24 oz - 40 oz container		✓
Bare by Solo Eco-Foward Sugarcane/Bagasse Take-Out Container	\$0.24/qty 200	9" x 9" x 3"		✓
World Centric Fiber To-Go Box, PLA lined	\$0.23/qty 400	20 oz		✓
World Centric Fiber To-Go Box, PLA lined	\$0.34/qty 400	32 oz		✓
World Centric Fiber To-Go Box PLA Lid	\$0.28/qty 400	Fits 20 oz & 32 oz container		✓

World Centric PLA-lined Fiber Tray	\$0.31/qty 400	36 oz		✓
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<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
World Centric Fiber Lid for 10" Fiber Tray	\$0.21/qty 400	Fits 10" tray		✓
World Centric Compostable, Bamboo, NoTree Boat Tray, 3lb	\$0.13/qty 500	.5 lb, 1 lb, 2 lb, 3 lb, & 5 lb		✓
World Centric Fiber Clamshell, Bamboo, Compostable, 3-Compt	\$0.32/qty 300	8"x 8"x 3"		✓
World Centric PLA-lined Fiber Clamshell	\$0.45/qty 300	8"x 8"x 3"		✓
World Centric PLA-lined Fiber Hoagie Box	\$0.33/qty 500	9"x 6"x 3"		✓
Eco-Products, 2lb Food Trays, Kraft, Green Leaf Print Design, Clay-coated paperboard	\$0.14/qty 1000	1 lb, 2 lb, 3 lb, & 5 lb		✓



Eco-Products, French Fry Scoop, Clay-coated paper	\$0.25/qty 1000	4.6"		✓
<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Better Earth Better Wedge, Compostable Bamboo Kraft w/ Clear PLA window	\$0.20/qty 500	4.8"x4.8"x2.8"		✓
Better Earth Fiber Portion Cup, Compostable, 2oz, PFAS free	\$0.05/qty 2,000	2 oz, 4 oz		✓
Better Earth 2 oz Fiber Portion Cup Lid	\$0.04/qty 2,000	Fits 2 oz cup		✓
Better Earth 10" Compostable Round Bamboo Fiber Plate, PFAS free	\$0.21/qty 500	6", 7", 9", 10"		✓
Better Earth 10" Round 3-Compartment Fiber Plate, PFAS free	\$0.16/qty 500	9", 10"		✓

Solo MP9R-J8001 Symphony 8 1/2" Medium Weight Clay-coated Paper Plate	\$0.14/qty 500	6", 7", 8.5"		✓
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<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
World Centric 9" Fiber Round Plates, PFAS free	\$0.11/qty 1,000	9"		✓
World Centric 9" Fiber Bamboo Plate, 3-Compt	\$0.13/qty 1,000	9", 10"		✓
Repurpose 9" Compostable Plates, PFAS free	\$0.35/qty 132	6", 9", 10"		✓
Ecovita 100% Compostable Bamboo Round Paper Plates, 9"	\$0.30/qty 150	7", 9"		✓
Transitions to Earth, PFAS-Free Compostable 6-inch Paper Plate, PLA lined	\$0.20/qty 100	6"		




Transitions to Earth, PFAS-Free Compostable 9-inch Paper Plate, PLA lined	\$0.27/qty 100	9"		
<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Bambu Veneerware, 5" square plate	\$0.72/qty 100	5", 7", 9", 11"		✓
Bambu Veneerware, 7" square plate	\$0.88/qty 100	5", 7", 9", 11"		✓
Birchware Square or Round Wooden Plate - 6"	\$0.10/qty 1000	6"		
Birchware Round Wooden Plate - 9"	\$0.37/qty 1000	9"		
Better Earth 20 oz Square Better Bowl, PLA-lined, Bamboo Paperboard, Compostable	\$0.22/ qty 400	20 oz, 30 oz, 40 oz		✓


Better Earth 20 oz Square Better Bowl Lid, CPLA-Embossed, Compostable	\$0.25/qty 400	Fits 20 oz bowl		✓
Better Earth Fiber Oval Bowl, Eco Bamboo, 24 oz, PFAS free	\$0.16/qty 400	24 oz		✓
<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Better Earth 24/32oz Oval Burrito Bowl Fiber Lid, Eco-Bamboo	\$0.22/qty 400	Fits 24 oz & 32 oz bowl		
Bare by Solo Square Compostable Sugarcane Bowl	\$0.08/qty 1,000	12 oz		✓
Repurpose 16 oz Compostable Bowl, PFAS free	\$0.32/qty 105	16 oz		✓
Ecovita 100% Compostable Bamboo Paper Bowls, 32 oz	\$0.42/qty 150	12 oz, 16 oz, 32 oz		✓
World Centric 32 oz Fiber Bowls, PFAS free	\$0.21/qty 500	16 oz, 24 oz, 32 oz		✓

World Centric PLA Fiber Bowl Lid	\$0.27/qty 300	Fits 16 oz, 24 oz, & 32 oz bowl		✓
Better Earth Cutlery Kit, Medium Weight, Fork, Knife, Spoon, Napkin, CPLA	\$0.21/qty 500	6.69"		✓

<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Repurpose Compostable Assorted Cutlery, Plant-based, PFAS free	\$0.35/qty 72			✓
Ecovita 100% Compostable Forks Spoons and Knives, Plant-based	\$0.17/qty 380	6.3-7.1"		✓
Bambu Veneerware, 6.5" fork, spoon, knife	\$0.27/qty 250	6.5"		✓

6 Inch Wooden Cutlery Spoon, 100% A Grade white birch	\$0.06/qty 5,000	6"		
Birchware Classic Wooden Forks, Spoons, Knives - 6.5"	\$0.04/qty 5,000	6.5"		
<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
Birchware Mini Wooden Spork, Spoon - 4"	\$0.02/qty 5,000	4"		
Repurpose Compostable PHA Straws, Plant-based	\$0.17/qty 150			✓
Phade Jumbo Wrapped Eco-Straw, PHA	\$0.03/qty 3,750	7.75"		✓
Phade Giant Wrapped Eco-Straws, PHA	\$0.05/qty 2,000	10.25"		✓

Aardvark 7.75" WRAPPED WHITE JUMBO PAPER STRAWS, 0.227" width	\$0.04/qty 600	7.75", 10"		✓
Good Start Packaging 7.75" PHA Straws Individually Wrapped	\$0.02/qty 2000	7.75"		✓
<i>Product Link</i>	<i>Vendor Pricing per Item</i>	<i>Product Sizing</i>	<i>Image</i>	<i>BPI/CMA Certified</i>
if you care 8" Basket Coffee Paper Filters	\$0.05/qty 100 per box	8"		
if you care Parchment Baking Sheets	\$0.24/qty 24 sheets per box	70 sq ft		
if you care unbleached, Compostable Paper Sandwich and Snack Bags	\$0.14/qty 48			
if you care Compostable 13 Gallon Tall Kitchen Bags	\$0.72/qty 12	13 gal		✓

<p><u>Repurpose Compostable, Plant-based Tall Kitchen Bag</u> <u>13 gal</u></p>	<p>\$0.80/qty 36 ct</p>	<p>3 gal, 13 gal</p>		<p>✓</p>
<p><u>Durable Packaging 12" x 10 3/4" Green Choice Interfolded Kraft Unbleached Brown Soy Wax Deli Sheets</u></p>	<p>\$0.02/qty 6,000 12 boxes of 500</p>	<p>6, 8, 10, & 15" X 10 3/4"</p>	