



Plastic Product Degradability Act

Chapter 70A.455 RCW

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DOH Food Safety Workshop & Webinar
September 23, 2025



Organics Management Laws

2022, 2023, 2025

1

Funding

- Five new grant programs

2

Organics Collection & Management

- Business Organics Management
- Organics Recycling Collection Areas
- Model ordinance for optional adoption
- Container color-code & required labels

3

Food Waste Prevention

- Center for Sustainable Food Management

4

Compost Market Development

- Compost procurement ordinances

5

Processing Organic Waste

- Organics Processing Facility Siting
- Compostable Product Labeling
- Rulemaking to reduce contamination in organics

6

Research

- Recommendations for Compostable Product Usage
- Assessment of Product Sticker Technologies
- Assessment & Opportunities for Edible Food Recovery

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This afternoon!

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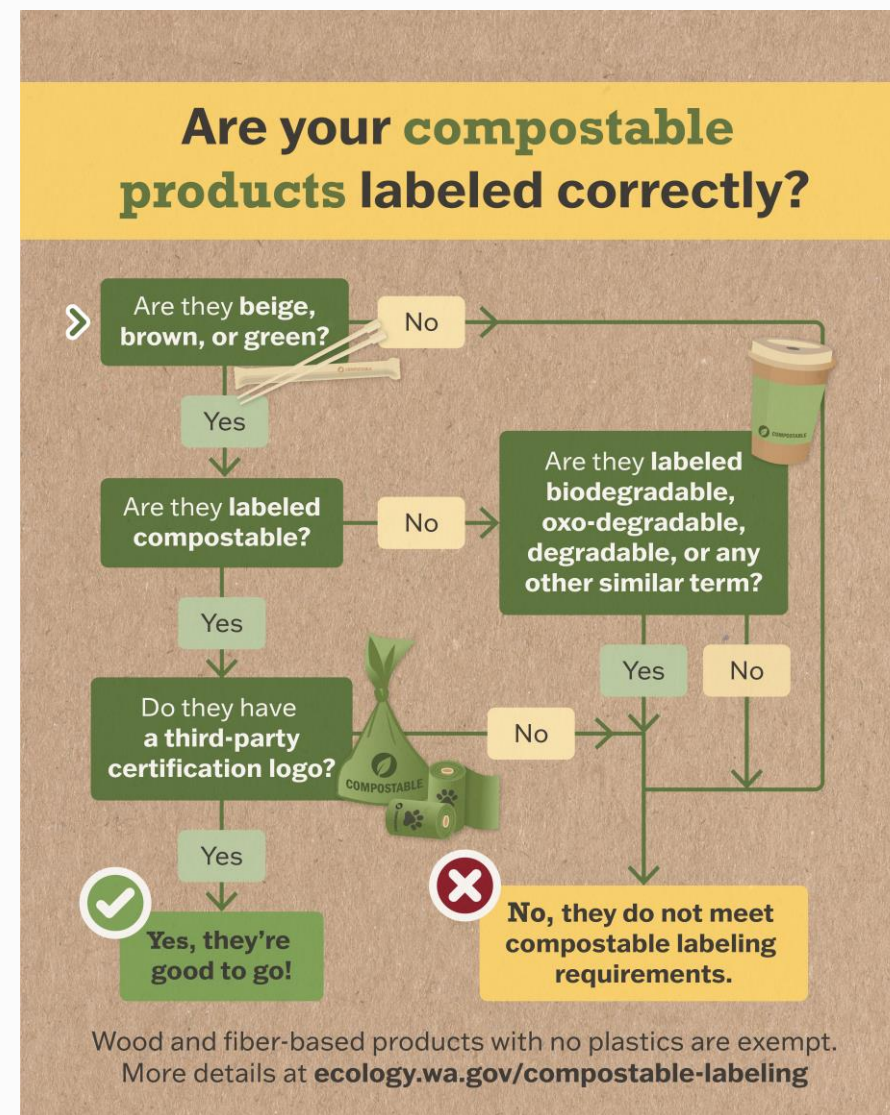
- Recommendations for Compostable Product Usage
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How does labeling help?

- Compostable products can help divert food, food waste, and other organic materials from the landfill
 - Prevents methane  
- Consumers and compost facilities should feel confident in the “truth” of these products
- Risks of greenwashing
 - Wasted money 
 - More landfilled material
 - Physical and chemical contamination 

What needs to be labeled?

- All products sold, offered for sale, or distributed in state
- Any item that claims to be “compostable”
- Wood and fiber-based items are **not** included
 - Fiber-based = 98% or more fiber and no plastics



3 Labeling Requirements

1. Color signal
 - Green, beige, or brown
2. Certifier logo*
3. Word “compostable,” where possible

* Certifications for compostable film bags, other film items, and food service products must be to ASTM D6400 or D6868 standards (“industrial composting”)

Check out page 2 of our Producer Focus Sheet for more info.



Label your plastic compostables right!



Other things to know

Banned Greenwashing Terms

- Biodegradable
- Degradable
- Decomposable
- Oxo-degradable
- Anything implying natural break down

Plastic film bags cannot use green, beige, or brown*



**Compostable
≠
Biodegradable**



Food Businesses and Restaurants

- If you use or sell compostable items, make sure they meet the law's requirements
- Ecology gets complaints through an online portal
 - Report to us if you see something!
 - We include businesses in letters to manufacturers
- Ask: Are compostables the right choice?
 - Required by local law?
 - What is accepted in your organics collection bin?



Resources

All product laws from today

- Waste & Toxics Reduction Flyer
 - 19 languages
 - Recently part of mailer

Washington State
Waste & Toxics Reduction Laws
Quick Guide for Food Service Organizations and Businesses

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Ban
The sale and distribution of EPS packing peanuts, single-use coolers, and food service products is prohibited.
Contact: epsbans@ecy.wa.gov



Effective June 1, 2023 Effective June 1, 2024

ecology.wa.gov/epsbans

Single-use Serviceware Law
Effective January 1, 2022
Businesses can no longer automatically provide single-use items in customer orders.



NO bundled utensils or pre-packaged cutlery kits

ecology.wa.gov/serviceware

Single-use Plastic Bag Ban
Effective October 1, 2021 | Contact: bagbans@ecy.wa.gov



NO Single-use plastic carryout bags

8¢ charge Large paper carryout bags

8¢ charge Thick reusable plastic carryout bags

ecology.wa.gov/bagban

DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Publication 24-04-013 | Revised March 2024 | 360-407-6000

Washington State
Waste & Toxics Reduction Laws
Quick Guide for Food Service Organizations and Businesses

Compostable Plastic Product Labeling
Effective January 1, 2024 | Contact: organics@ecy.wa.gov

Look for compostable products with the right labeling features (green, beige, or brown color/stripping, certifier logo, and the word "compostable") and avoid "greenwashing" products.



NO other similar terms

ecology.wa.gov/compostable-labeling

PFAS in Food Packaging
Effective February 1, 2023 and May 1, 2024
Some food packaging with PFAS may not be made, sold, or distributed in Washington. Request a Certificate of Compliance from manufacturers.



ecology.wa.gov/pfas-food-packaging

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at bagbans@ecy.wa.gov or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.
For information in additional languages, email languages@ecy.wa.gov or call 360-407-6900. Free language services are available.

Compostable product labeling

- Ecology.wa.gov/compostable-labeling
 - Portal to report products
 - Publications, FAQs, etc.
- Outreach toolkit
 - Social media
 - Flyers
 - Banners & icons
- List of compostable products declared by producers





Thank you

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