

PROPERTIES OF DIFFERENT BIOPLASTICS:

PLA (POLYLACTIC ACID) a bioplastic made from corn starch, commonly used for bags, cutlery, cold cups, hot cup/container lining and straws. PLA must be “hot” or industrially composted. It’s not going anywhere if you put it in your garden compost or food waste collection.

CPLA is a form of PLA that is heat resistant and must be “hot” or industrially composted.

RCPLA is ‘Recycled CPLA’. Again this can only be composted in “hot” or industrial processes.

GELLOPHANE is a wood pulp cellulose-based material. Like other bioplastics it must be “hot”/industrially composted. There are dissolving wood pulp cellulose based materials on the market that can be “cold”/home or “hot”/industrially composted. Check what you are buying.

BAGASSE is recycled sugarcane used for takeaway boxes. It’s not bioplastic, just pressed sugarcane. This can be “cold”/home or “hot”/industrially composted. However, some commercial bagasse is not accredited for home composting. Check what you are buying.

SAS GUIDANCE

It is always worth checking with suppliers and manufacturers how sustainable alternatives are disposed of. Be aware that many biodegradable/compostable products are not home compostable and need to go to special composting facilities, of which there are very few in the UK. Also be aware that many of these products are takeaway so are hard to capture once they leave the premises.

The bottom-line is check what you are buying and its waste journey. SAS do not endorse or recommend specific products and we do not accept swapping to a compostable or bio-degradable product as an action to eliminate single use.

OUR MESSAGE IS TO
AVOID SINGLE USE
AS MUCH AS YOU CAN
- FULL STOP - BY
ENCOURAGING REFUSAL,
REFILL AND REUSE