

COMPOSTABLE PRODUCT CERTIFICATION GUIDE

This guide breaks down what compostable certifications mean, why they matter, and how to confidently choose products that support successful organics diversion.

ECOSAFE'S CERTIFICATIONS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

EcoSafe products carry two separate certifications: BPI certification, which confirms the product meets ASTM D6400 standards for compostability in a lab setting, and Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA) Composter Approved, which goes a step further by testing performance at real commercial composting facilities. Together, they mean our products are proven both on paper and in the pile.



BPI CERTIFICATION

NORTH AMERICA'S COMPOSTABLES AUTHORITY

- ✓ Testing is done by an independent lab, not just claimed by the manufacturer
- ✓ Products carry a certification mark that composters recognize
- ✓ Certification is publicly searchable in BPI's database



CMA COMPOSTER APPROVAL

FIELD-TESTED AND APPROVED IN THE FOLLOWING PILES:

- ✓ In-Vessel — composting inside enclosed containers or tunnels
- ✓ Windrow — long outdoor rows, turned regularly
- ✓ Aerated Static Pile (ASP) — piles with air pumped through instead of turning

CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE VS. “BIODEGRADABLE”

Not all “green” claims are created equal. Terms like biodegradable, degradable, plant-based, eco-friendly, bio-based, or renewable do not mean a product is certified compostable. Without third-party certification, these products have not been independently verified to break down successfully in a composting environment.

	CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE	BIODEGRADABLE CLAIMS
Certification	Independently, third party certified	No universal certification standard
Testing	Tested against international recognized compostability standards	May mean the material eventually breaks down (causing persistent microplastics)
Intended use	Built for commercial compost facilities (unless certified for BPI home composting)	No verified end-of-life instruction, not intended for compost



Before and after field testing, demonstrating complete disintegration of the compostable liner.

HOW TO VERIFY CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

- 1 Look for a certification mark — such as BPI, CMA, TÜV, or BNQ.
- 2 Identify the manufacturer/product and search for it in the certifier’s database.
- 3 Confirm the specific product or SKU is covered by the certification.
- 4 Check the certification number. A legitimate certification should be independently verifiable. EcoSafe prints its BPI certification number on products and packaging wherever space allows.

ECOSAFE’S BPI CERTIFICATION NUMBERS

- EcoSafe Kitchen Bags and Yard Waste Bags
890992-1
890992-4
- EcoSafe Kitchen Bags, Produce Bags, Retail Bags, Yard Waste Bags, Food Service Glove, Pet Waste (Canada only)
890992-6
- Produce Bags, Retail Bags and Food Service (Gloves)
890992-9



Look for the EcoSafe signature green stripe for easy identification for composters!

WANT TO DIG DEEPER?

Explore the science, certifications, and supporting studies at ecosafe.green/pages/certifications.