

Paper Cup Types

The major types of paper cups ranked based on their circularity



PHA

PHA is a plant-based polymer that biodegrades in the environment within 3 years.



- Primary Source:
 Renewable Canola Oil
- Industrially Compostable: Yes
- Home Compostable: Yes
- Potentially Marine
 Degradable: Yes

Shelf Life: TBA

PLA

The lining is made from plant based Polylactic Acid, which can go into industrial composting.



- Primary Source:
 Renewable Corn Starch
- Industrially Compostable: Yes
- Home Compostable: No
- Potentially Marine
 Degradable: No
- · Shelf Life: 12 Months

Aqueous

A water-based polymer coating is applied to the inside of the cup, which contains a small amount of plastic



- Primary Source: Fossil Fuel
- Industrially Compostable: Yes
- Home Compostable: Yes (Not all brands)
- Marine Degradable: No
- · Shelf Life: 12 months

PE Lined

The thin lining is made from LDPE, which is not compostable or recyclable through the usual channels.



- Primary Source: Fossil
- Industrially
 Compostable: No
- Home Compostable: No
- Marine Degradable: No
- Shelf Life: 2+ Years