

When Reusables Are Not Available, How Do You Find the Most Ocean Friendly Single-use Product

Use this tool to review products and avoid greenwashing. If you can answer yes across the board- then that product is likely

Planning to

Guidance	Specific Qualities	What it Means if the Answer is "No"	Notpla Containers
Product is made completely of naturally occurring materials	All product ingredients are clearly listed on the product website (if not right on the packaging)	If No- be wary as transparency is a must in this industry. Too often companies sneak plastics, plastic derivatives, or harmful chemicals (like PFAS!) into their products.	No.
	Product looks and feels different from plastic	If No- this product could have had its natural ingredients chemically altered to be identical to traditional plastics, taking years (or decades+) to fully breakdown, or designed in a way that only breaks down in industrial composters. It can also cause confusion for users on how best to dispose	Yes
	Product is certified 100% bio-based (e.g. USDA Biobased 100%)	If No- be wary as this can mean that fossil-fuel based plastics, plastic derivatives or harmful chemicals have been added to the product, and it is therefore not "made of completely naturally occurring materials". Note: There's a 1% degree of error so products listed as 99% still meet this requirement.	No
Product is able to breakdown in the natural environment	Product does not require industrial composting facilities to fully breakdown	If No- this means that the product will only fully breakdown *if* it gets to an "industrial composting facility." Very few of these exist, and there are rarely distribution channels to get waste from your home or business to the facility. Some products certified as industrially compostable don't breakdown in the desired timeframe, resulting in pieces of partially degraded plastics being included in compost.	Yes
	Product is certified home compostable (e.g. TUV OK Compost Home)**	If No- this means that the product has not been committed to be able to fully breakdown in a home compost pile by a third-party certification. While certifications aren't perfect, they provide some assurance that the product will break down in the conditions stated, over a specified timeframe, and won't cause any toxicity . This last bit is extra important since many natural seeming products can be lined with toxic chemicals like PFAS.	No

Bonus! Product materials are born of the waste stream	Product materials are upcycled , and would otherwise be discarded (e.g. corn husk, agave fibre, oyster shells).	If No- some of the materials in this product were "purpose-grown" meaning you'll need to consider the embedded emissions and environmental impact that went into growing the source material (e.g. land clearing, habitat loss, fertilizers, pesticides).	Yes (some of it)
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** Certified Home Compostable or made completely from a single, unprocessed or minimally processed natural material that's undergone toxic

Minimum Requirements to be Considered for Inclusion in Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Foodware Guide	Certified Home Compostable or made from a single ingredient, natural material that's either unprocessed or minimally processed and has undergone toxicity testing Certified 99-100% biobased, or manufacturer is willing to provide full list of product ingredients to allow for Surfrider due diligence
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Other Certifications & What they Mean

Compostable/Marine Degradable

Marine Degradable

Compost Manufacturing Alliance -1

Compost Manufacturing Alliance -S

Plastic Free

[Plastic Free Certification](#)

"Certification tool for products without any inorganic plastics"

KD requested a

Oceanic Global Plastic Free

CJ Spoke with people at Oceanic Global. They are in the middle of updating their criteria

[GreenStep SUP Free](#)

[TUV Flustix](#)

4 levels: Plastic Free Total Product; Free From microplastics, Plastic-Free Product, Plasti

ict?

include	<i>in 2023 Foodware Guide Update</i>
not include	

Holy City- Wheat Straw	Holy City Reed Straw	Loliware	Aardvark Paper Straw	Sofi Paper Cup	Hay Straws	Bambu	Strawfish	Phade Straws
Yes	Yes	No- but provided details via NDA	Yes	FDA approved and FSC certified Kraft paper	Yes	Yes	No	No. PHA
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	No
99%	100%	Yes	NA	NA	100%	100%	NA	NA
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No- but product is single ingredient & unprocessed. CEH approved no PFAS	No- but product is single ingredient & unprocessed. CEH approved no PFAS	In process	No - but product is paper and minimally processed. CEH approved no PFAS	Yes	NO- but product is single ingredient & unprocessed. Say toxic free	NO - but product is single-ingredient & unprocessed. Says no PFAS	NA	Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes (some if it)

Virgin but
product is
FSC/SFI paper

virgin paper
for now.
Plans to use
recycled
paper. Says
PFAS free

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

Additional info

and will let us know when it is ready.

PFAS-Free Packaging

VerTerra Fallen Palm Leaves	Woodable Utensils	Sugarcane Straw V2	The Clear Conscience Palm Leaves	Eco Gecko Wood	BOSS Paper Straw
Yes	Yes	NO	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	NA	Yes		100% NA	NA
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No - but product is single ingredient & unprocessed. BPI Compost certified so no PFAS	No - but product is single ingredient & unprocessed	Yes	No - but product is single ingredient & unprocessed	NO - but product is single ingredient & unprocessed. Says no PFAS added	Yes

Yes

No, FSC
certified
forests

Yes

Yes

No, FSC
certified
forests

FSC/SFI and
PFAS free