



100% Certified Compostable Pods: The Facts

The Pods

1. What are the pods made of?

Over 90% of the total weight of a used pod is coffee grounds, which are great for compost.

The remaining 10% of the weight is composed of an integrated lid, mesh filter and brown ring, and each component including all inks have been tested and certified as 100% compostable.

The lid, mesh filter and brown ring on the pod are made of different materials. Each component of the pod (including inks & taggant) is BPI approved and certified under ASTM 6868 standards:

- Ring: corn starch & coffee chaff
 - 20%+ coffee chaff reclaimed from coffee roasting in the resin (exclusive worldwide patent)
 - Bio-composite resin blend developed through University of Guelph research
 - Full & rapid disintegration in lab & municipal tests
- Lid: paper
 - compostable combination & inks 2.0 compatible
- Mesh filter: corn starch
 - Compostable bio-based plastic

2. What does plant-based material mean?

Substances from various plants are extracted and processed to help create the raw material for the pod.

3. What is coffee chaff?

The natural skin of the coffee bean that comes off during the roasting process, like the skin of a peanut. Its high nitrogen content makes it a valuable component of the compostable pod.

4. Do these pods have any conventional plastic?

As a Certified 100% Compostable pod, these pods have so little conventional plastic that they actually break down to dirt in industrial and municipal composting facilities. These pods use advanced materials made from renewable sources, such as plants, to replace almost all conventional plastics so that they break down.

5. How are the pods made?

A highly automated process puts the lids, rings and mesh filter together to form the pod and then places the precise amount of coffee needed into each one.

6. Are your single serve pods compatible with Keurig K2.0 brewers?

Yes, they are compatible with any brewer that accepts “K-Cups”.

7. Why is there a green ring around the edge of the lid?



The green ring has a special coating that allows the pods to work in Keurig 2.0-style single serve brewers.

8. Are the pods manufactured in Huntsville?

The compostable pod technology is new to the market, and is part of an integrated production line that optimizes quality. That line is located a short trip south of us, outside Muskoka.

We are 100% confident that the quality you have come to expect from Muskoka Roastery Coffee Co. and our iconic roasts will shine through in this revolutionary compostable single serve pod.

The Coffee

9. Is the coffee in the pods the same as in the 400/454g bags?

Our compostable pods use the identical beans, blends, and roast profiles you find in our traditional whole bean and ground coffees. A great deal of time has gone into ensuring that the handcrafted quality we are known for is replicated in our new single serve offerings.

As always, all of our roasts, whether in bags or pods, are 100% Rainforest Alliance Certified.

Compostability

10. The carton says this coffee pod is Certified 100% Compostable. What does compostable actually mean?

A Certified 100% Compostable product has passed the independent testing process to confirm it will normally break down safely and quickly into compost in large-scales municipal and industrial composting such as green bin systems. Farmers and gardeners use compost to enrich the soil and help plants grow.

11. Who certifies these pods as 100% Compostable?

Our pods have earned 100% Compostable certification from the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI). This not-for-profit association of individuals and groups from government, industry and academia is the largest certification organization for compostable products in North America and its Compostable Logo is recognized by composters and manufacturers across the continent.

To earn BPI certification, products must be tested in approved third party labs to demonstrate compliance with the ASTM D6868 standard for compostability. Then NSF International, a leading independent certifier, must verify the results and formulations.

BPI only allows its name and Compostable Logo to be used after successful testing and verification have been completed. For more information please visit www.bpiworld.org

12. Can I compost these pods anywhere?



Our pods are certified to break down in the kind of large-scale composting services that many municipalities and commercial industrial waste services offer.

Typically, those services receive food, leaf and yard waste either from curbside pickup or that people drop off directly. They take that waste and put it through processes to break it down. Many of them turn the waste into compost that can be used to enrich soil for agriculture and gardening. Some put it through processes to extract gases to meet energy needs.

13. How long does it take for the pod to compost in a municipal, commercial or industrial composting facility?

Testing shows the pod can break down in as little as 5 weeks in well-managed composting processes -- like most food waste.

14. Can I put the pods in all municipal, industrial or commercial composting systems?

Check with your local composting facility operator.

These pods have met the standard to be called Certified 100% Compostable for typical curbside composting processes and for places where people drop off compostable items at depots.

Tests are taking place to confirm performance in the District of Municipality of Muskoka's composting system, similar to successful tests by the City of Orillia, so check with your municipality on what they accept.

15. Can I compost these pods in my backyard home composter?

Currently there is no North American certification process to give consumers guidance on backyard composting. Tests are taking place to determine how well the pod breaks down in different backyard composting conditions, especially as local climate and individual composting practices influence results.

16. Can I put the pods down the garbage disposal in my sink?

It is not currently recommended to put the pods down a garbage disposal.

17. What do I do with the pods if I don't have composting near me?

The number of people with access to composting programs is growing rapidly. We are exploring alternatives that other consumers can use. For now, the pods would have to go in the regular garbage. We encourage anyone without access to a composting program to reach out to their municipality, and join us in advocating for composting as a way to divert waste from landfills.

Compostable vs. Biodegradable vs. Recyclable

18. Are Certified 100% Compostable and biodegradable the same thing?

No. Biodegradable simply means that something can break down over time in the right conditions and processes, even if that breakdown takes millions of years. No standardized testing or certification exists to



substantiate “biodegradable” claims, and the term is used as a proxy for “compostable” when products are not fully compostable. Bio-degradable claims are not accepted by commercial composters.

Government consumer protection authorities are beginning to crack down on false and misleading claims that use the term “biodegradable” (ie: greenwashing), and companies in the US have had to redesign their packaging to remove such claims.

A product can only call itself Certified 100% Compostable if it meets independent standards showing it will break down quickly, and produce nutrient-rich compost (without biotoxicity or heavy metals).

19. Are your single serve pods recyclable?

Certified 100% Compostable is preferable because most single serve cups are not recyclable in practice, despite extensive greenwashing (false & misleading claims) that suggests otherwise. Even if they are theoretically recyclable, small plastic items are often rejected in recycling facilities and sent straight to landfill because they are too small to process. Even when they are accepted by facilities they frequently contaminate the recycle stream with coffee.

Additionally, recycling is often inconvenient and time consuming. Consumers are required to separate hot pods, with the lid/filter still going in the garbage, the ground coffee going in either the compost or garbage, and only the plastic cup going in the recycling. Some “recyclable” designs even require rinsing the plastic cup out, which wastes additional time and water.

Packaging

20. Is the large silver inner bag compostable or recyclable?

The inner bag has to meet challenging tests to ensure that it protects coffee from oxygen so consumers get the freshness and quality they expect.

For now, the large silver inner bags can be re-used or disposed of with regular waste. We are always on the lookout for technology that will allow us to deliver unparalleled freshness while reducing our environmental impact.

21. Is the cardboard made from recycled fibers?

Both our individual boxes and wholesale cases are 100% FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) Certified, and made from 100% recycled fibres.

FSC is an international certification and labeling system dedicated to promoting responsible forest management of the world’s forests. This means that forests are evaluated to meet FSC’s strict environmental and social standards. The FSC Recycled label was introduced in recognition of the important role that reclaimed material plays in protecting the world’s forests.

The FSC Recycled label applies to products made exclusively from reclaimed materials. FSC Recycled 100% and the corresponding FSC label are reserved for products containing 100 percent reclaimed inputs (which may be a combination of post- and pre-consumer materials).