

Which liner should I use for my kitchen caddy?

Compostable, degradable, biodegradable and plastic bags - it can sometimes be confusing as to which bags you can use in your kitchen caddy. Check out the below information for what is a go-go for FOGO.



Certified Compostable Liners

Green kitchen caddy liners are available for purchase from Council. These are certified compostable. The liners are a type of bioplastic which means that they behave like plastic but are actually made from a plant (waste from cornstarch production). Because the liners are plant-based they are able to break down with the FOGO material and return nutrients to the soil.

The compostable kitchen caddy liners are specially made to decompose along with the food waste they contain. This organic material is then turned into quality compost. These liners conform to the 'Seedling Logo' and comply with Australian Standard AS4736-2006. They are fully composted in commercial composting systems within six months but usually break down in around 30 days. These bags are not suitable for backyard composting.

Bag splitting can occur and bags begin to break down when they come in contact with moisture and heat. To help extend the life of your kitchen caddy liner bags you can:

- Store bags in a cool, dark, dry place.
- Allow hot food to cool before placing in bag.
- Place a paper towel in the bottom of the bag to soak up any liquid.
- Allow wet food to drain before placing in the bag.



Where can I purchase compostable liners?

You can purchase compostable liners from Woolworths, Coles and IGA supermarkets or directly from Council Customer Service at 111 Brown Street or 1 Market Place, Hamilton.

Call Customer Service on 5573 0444, via email at council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au or visit our website www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/FOGO for more information.





NO GO'S FOR FOGO



Biodegradable, plastic and degradable bags

Biodegradable bags will break down and return to the environment but this usually takes longer than a certified compostable bag. These bags do not meet the strict requirements for compostable bags. Some companies claim that their bags are biodegradable but without certification there is no way of knowing if this is actually correct. Biodegradable bags are not accepted in the Council FOGO collection.

Plastic bags cannot be used in your kitchen caddy or placed in your FOGO bin. Using plastic bags will contaminate your organic material and may damage machinery used at the composting facility. They could even end up as part of the compost on farms polluting the land or being ingested animals.

Degradable plastics contain additives, usually heavy metals which assist the material to disintegrate over a number of years into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic. These bags are even more harmful to the environment than plastic bags. Some supermarkets use degradable bags for fruit and vegetables, claiming that they are an environmentally friendly alternative to plastic bags.

Don't have compostable liners? Check out these great alternatives:

Newspaper



Line your kitchen caddy with newspaper. You could even make a liner bag from used newspapers.

Paper towel



Paper towel is a great alternative option. You can use paper towel to line the inside of your kitchen caddy.

No liner



Or simply use no liner at all and just rinse your kitchen caddy after emptying it into your FOGO bin.



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