

## RECOMMENDED GRAPHICS, TERMS AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

The Foodservice Packaging Institute provides access to a library of high-resolution images of foodservice packaging items available for use in your website and other educational materials. The suggested language and special instructions outlined below have been selected based on an assessment of messaging from leading compost programs that include foodservice items and guidance from compost certifications.

To effectively communicate composting of foodservice items, research recommends the following:





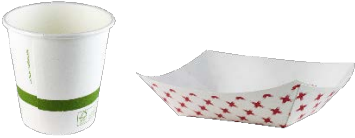
- Categorize the foodservice items as “compostable products” or “other.”
- Use the instructions “Items must be clearly labeled ‘Compostable’ (‘Biodegradable’ is NOT the same as ‘Compostable’).”
- If your composter accepts only certified compostable items, include an appropriate statement requiring the logo, e.g. BPI.




### Items that are Compostable AND Recyclable

In some municipal programs, certain foodservice packaging items (such as those made of uncoated paper) are not only accepted by the composting facility but are also able to be recycled in a community’s recycling program. This situation can lead to confusion for residents who must decide whether to place the item in the composting stream or the recycling stream.

- The recyclability of a paper item is largely dependent on the quality of the material as well as its cleanliness.
- Paper-based items such as napkins and paper towels are generally made with shorter, lower-quality fibers which are not conducive to recycling. These items are frequently welcomed in the composting stream.
- Paper-based items that are comprised of 100% fiber and lack a poly lining (paper plates, paper bags, 100% paper cups, paperboard or cardboard boxes, etc.) are frequently accepted in residential recycling programs for recycling and are also accepted for composting.

The following chart provides recommendations for images, text and categorization of common foodservice items.

Compostable Packaging or other Approved Compostable Items	
Recommended Images and Terms	Best Practices
 <p><b>Coffee Filters, Tea Bags</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tea bags should be distinguished from tea bag wrappers</li> <li>• Clarify that coffee filter acceptance does not represent acceptance of coffee single-serve pods</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Pizza Boxes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean or very lightly soiled pizza boxes are frequently welcome in recycling programs</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Food-Soiled Paper: Paper Plates, Bags, Napkins, Wraps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If listing examples, include paper bags, napkins, uncoated plates</li> <li>• Can also include bagasse items (e.g. bowls), non-recyclable paper (e.g. coffee filters, tea bags, facial tissue, paper towels)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Molded Fiber Plates &amp; Containers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can also include images of other prevalent molded fiber packaging such as egg cartons and beverage carriers</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Compostable Paper Cups &amp; Takeout Containers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use images of items that have a label or visual cue that they are compostable, to distinguish from non-compostable items</li> <li>• If listing examples, include compostable paper cups, plates, bowls and clamshells</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use images of items that have a label or visual cue that they are compostable to distinguish from non-compostable items</li> </ul>

 <p><b>Compostable Plastic Cups &amp; Takeout Containers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If listing examples, include compostable plastic cups, bowls, lids, clamshells and other containers</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Compostable Cutlery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the limited space for labeling these items, it may be helpful to reference a logo, or instruct residents, when unsure if an item is compostable, to place in the trash</li> <li>• If listing examples, include compostable cutlery, straws, stirrers</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Compostable Plastic Bags</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If listing examples, include image of compostable single-use retail bags</li> <li>• To ensure that bags are certified compostable in accordance with the ASTM 6400 standard, it is recommended that bags have a visible BPI-certified logo</li> <li>• If a bag does not clearly indicate that it is compostable, it should be placed in the trash</li> </ul>

## PERSONALIZED FLYER TEMPLATE SAMPLE

Promoting composting of foodservice packaging is easy with a flyer template featuring best practices, terms and images. FPI's Resident Education Kit provides a flyer to be personalized with your website address. Download the flyer, graphics, and other communications resources at <http://www.recyclefsp.org/residenteducationkit>.



**COMPOST MORE!**  
RecycleAnyTown.com

**FOOD SCRAPS**

- Fruits, Vegetables
- Meat, Seafood
- Bones
- Eggshells
- Pasta, Grains

**YARD DEBRIS**

- Leaves
- Small Branches
- Weeds, Flowers
- Plant Clippings

**OTHER**

- Coffee Filters, Tea Bags
- Pizza Boxes
- Paper Plates, Bags, Napkins, Wraps
- Molded Fiber Plates & Containers
- Compostable Paper Cups & Takeout Containers
- Compostable Plastic Cups & Takeout Containers
- Compostable Cutlery