

# COMPOSTABLE VS DEGRADABLE AND BIODEGRADABLE BAGS

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEGRADABLE, BIODEGRADABLE AND COMPOSTABLE BAGS? WHICH BIN SHOULD YOU PLACE THEM IN?

### DEGRADABLE

Degradable bags are made from plastic with other chemicals added (including heavy metals) that cause the plastic to break down and disintegrate over time when exposed to sunlight and heat. If degradable bags are released into our environment they become quite problematic as they break down into hundreds of tiny pieces of plastic. Animals can consume the smaller pieces of plastic more readily than they would if the bags were still whole. It is also much more difficult to remove hundreds of tiny pieces of plastic from the environment than it is to remove a single bag.



**Which Bin?** Degradable bags should only be used for and placed into your **waste to landfill bin (red or blue lid)**.

### BIODEGRADABLE

Like degradable bags, biodegradable are often still plastic bags that have microorganisms added to break down the plastic.

**Which bin?** Biodegradable bags should only be used for and placed into your **waste bin to landfill bin (red or blue lid)**.



### COMPOSTABLE

Compostable bags are made of natural plant starch, and do not produce any toxic material. Compostable bags break down readily in a composting system through microbial activity to form compost. In order to be classified as compostable they must meet the Australian Standard for compostability AS4736 and will have this symbol.



**Which bin?** Compostable bags can be used to line your kitchen caddy for collection of food scraps and then placed into the green lidded **food and garden organics (FOGO) bin**. Don't waste them in your general waste bin as they will not compost well in a landfill environment.

For further clarification check out the Jeffries information overleaf or go to [jeffries.com.au](http://jeffries.com.au)  
Go to [whichbin.sa.gov.au](http://whichbin.sa.gov.au) for more information on 'which bin' to place your household materials in.

# COMPOSTABLE VS BIODEGRADABLE WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

THE GREAT  
PLASTIC BAG  
DEBATE!



COMPOSTABLE BAGS ARE MADE OF PLANT MATERIALS &  
BREAK DOWN DURING THE COMMERCIAL COMPOSTING PROCESS INTO NON TOXIC COMPONENTS



BIODEGRADABLE BAGS SIMPLY HAVE ADDITIVES THAT OVER TIME WILL BREAK THE PLASTIC  
DOWN INTO SMALLER SIZED PIECES WHICH TAKE MANY DECADES TO DISSAPPEAR



BIODEGRADABLE BAGS ARE NOT COMPOSTABLE & WILL CONTAMINATE YOUR GREEN ORGANICS BIN & OUR PRODUCTS



ONLY USE COMPOSTABLE BAGS  
IN YOUR GREEN ORGANICS BIN

**jeffries**  
compost, soil & mulch  
experts

*jeffries is... healthy soil*