



# WORST ————— BEST

*These materials have high environmental impacts or commonly contaminate waste streams.*

*These materials can be recycled or composted - ONLY IF they are disposed of in the correct bins.*

*These materials and practices are best for the environment.*

## COFFEE CUPS



Coffee cups belong in garbage because they often have a plastic lining.



Plastics without a #1-7 recycling symbol and polystyrene containers can't be recycled and end up in landfill.

While certified compostable take out containers or cups are accepted in the food waste bins, they often end up in the wrong place and have higher environmental tradeoffs than recyclable material.



## BAGS

Single-use plastic bags or low-quality "reusable" bags often end up as litter and belong in the garbage.



Compostable plastic bags, while accepted in the food waste bins, do not break down in the natural environment and have higher environmental tradeoffs than recyclable plastic.



## CUTLERY

Single-use plastic cutlery often ends up as litter. While compostable plastic is sometimes accepted in municipal compost systems, it can degrade the quality of compost and contribute to contamination.



Certified compostable coffee cups are still single-use items, but can be put in the food waste bin instead of landfill.



#1-7 plastics and clean, unlined paper are accepted in recycling. These are still single-use items, and often end up in the wrong bins, creating contamination.



Food-soiled paper or fiber-based compostable items are accepted in food waste bins. Choose paper or fiber-based materials over compostable plastic as they are likely to break down quickly in the composting process. Avoid paper with a waxy or plastic lining.



Paper bags can be reused or recycled. However they still take resources and energy to produce, transport, and recycle.



Bamboo cutlery is accepted in the food bins, but is still a single-use disposable item that takes resources to produce.



- Customer brings own mug
- Business uses reusable service provider for takeaway
- Business uses reusable mug in-store (i.e., ceramic, glass)



- Customer brings own container
- Business uses reusable service provider



- Customer brings own reusable bag
- High-quality, durable reusable bags
- Bag-borrow initiatives



- Customer brings own cutlery
- Business' default take away option is no disposable cutlery
- Business uses reusable cutlery in-store