

# Q&A



## What is Bagasse?

Bagasse is the fibrous matter that remains after sugar cane stalks are crushed to extract their juice. The most important use of Bagasse for everyday consumers is as a source of pulp for paper. It can be used as an alternative to wood in the production of paper products, saving trees.

## What is the difference between paper and Bagasse?

Time and resources are the key difference, but both can be used to make packaging. Bagasse is a waste product from an annual crop as opposed to a tree plantation which can take 20 years to mature. Bagasse is a more sustainable and eco-friendly option given the shorter growth period.

## What is the difference between tree free global products and other eco-products?

**tree free global** uses Bagasse as a base element to produce world leading coffee cups and food packaging. All **tree free** products are 100% compostable and made from only selected high-quality sugar cane. The products are sustainable and critically have significantly better performance than paper tree products. Additionally, these products reduce the amount of pollution exerted into the air, so they are also eco-friendlier than many other disposables.

## How long do tree free Bagasse cups take to fully biodegrade in the compost?

Bagasse or sugar cane is fully compostable and breaks down best in commercial compost facilities in less than 60 days. In a home composting trial our packaging broke down leaving only nutrients in 30 days, our cups 60 days and our lids 90 days. Each home compost is different, so times may vary.

## How long does it take for a paper cup to biodegrade?

A paper cup takes more than 20 years to decompose in a sealed land fill and a few days in a lake or the ocean but the plastic will remain. As our products are entirely plant based, they will break down in and leave no harmful plastic behind.

## What are the key benefits of Bagasse?

- The best reason for using Bagasse pulp as a raw material is to save trees- 5,000 kilos of wood are needed to produce 1,000 kilos of pulp for paper, only 1,500 kilos of Bagasse is needed to produce the same amount of pulp;
- Bagasse is a rapidly renewable annual resource and sustainable – unlike paper or card from virgin forests, which are endangered by harvesting.



## What are tree free lids made of?

Our lids are made from PLA a bio plastic derived from corn starch. All lids are compostable and consistent with our company policy to offer the most ethically sustainable products for the Hospitality Industry.

## What does compostable mean?

A mixture of decayed or decaying organic matter used to fertilize soil. Compost is usually made by gathering plant material, such as leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable peels, into a pile or bin and letting it decompose as a result of the action of aerobic bacteria, fungi, and other organisms.

## What is the difference between biodegradable and compostable?

Biodegradable items refer to any material that breaks down and decomposes in the environment; compostable goods are organic matter that breaks down to become a pile of nutrient-rich soil.

## Where are tree free cups manufactured?

At tree free we manufacture products that are being ethically produced and compostable. Our production facility in China reduces the typical environmental impact of operations. Moreover, we are always looking to create and innovate. We have developed an advanced technology system as well as a series of unique farming technologies in Bagasse production.

## What is the difference between single wall and double wall cup?

Single wall paper coffee cups are an inexpensive way to cater for hot or cold beverages. Double wall hot cups are made by manufacturing two paper walls with an insulating air pocket between them. Some people use a double wall cup to avoid the need for a sleeve and keeps drinks hotter longer.

## Can I order branded cups?

Yes, we can make any **tree free** cups in any art look you desire. Simply provide us with the desired artwork and we will do the rest. Minimum order quantities and rules of scale will apply.

## Is Bagasse suitable for hot beverage holding?

Our **tree free** cups and Bagasse based products will handle hot food and beverages up to 120 degrees centigrade. They are microwave and freezer safe, have a high resistance to grease and are water resistant. Unlike paper or plastic containers, our takeaways are oven-safe up to 220 degrees centigrade.

## Can Bagasse be used to make other compostable products?

From plates and bowls to sleeves and cups Bagasse can be used to make other compostable products. When Bagasse products degrade, they provide natural ingredients back to environment since they are made from natural, organic and renewable materials. Bagasse products are perfect alternatives to tree-based paper and plastic.