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The Foodservice Packaging Specialists

Navigating Linings & Legislation - Cartons

Choosing a carton and lining type for your business can be a complex and costly exercise. We have simplified a complicated landscape to help you make the best choice for your business.

Cartons – an overview

Currently, there are many type of carton linings available in market, all with their own pros & cons. The best option for your business may vary based on your location and performance needs.

Lining	Lining Type	Description	Primary Source	Kerside Recyclable	Industrially Compostable AS 4736	Home Compostable AS 5810	Melting Point	Shelf Life
PE	Resin	Low Density Polyethelyne. Traditional/historical plastic lining for paper cups.	Fossil Fuel	Yes	No	No	105-115°C	2+ years
PP	Resin	Polypropylene. A more temperature and chemically resistant lining compared to PE. Microwavable as a lining on fibre.	Fossil Fuel	Yes	No	No	160-170°C	2+ years
PET	Resin	Polyethylene Terephthalate. High temperature resistance and greater rigidity compared to PE. Microwavable & ovenable as a lining on fibre.	Fossil Fuel	Yes	No	No	225-255°C	2+ years
PLA	Resin	Polylactic Acid. A natural starch-based bio-plastic derived from plants such as corn, potatoes and sugarcane. Sometimes branded as Ingeo®. Microwavable as a lining on fibre.	Renewable	No	Yes	No	150-180°C	12 Months
PBS	Resin	Polybutylene Succinate is a polymer which is made from two different components. One component is fossil fuel based, and the other component can be derived from renewable plant sources.	Fossil Fuel & Partly Renewable	Yes	Yes	No	90-115°C	12 Months
Aqueous	Water Dispersion	Aqueous linings refer to the process of applying plastic or latex particles and fillers which are suspended in water onto a material.	Fossil Fuel	Yes	Yes	Yes	Variable	12 Months

PE, PP or PET Quick Facts:

- PE historically has been the most popular carton lining due to its barrier properties.
- PE cartons are a cost-effective solution.
- Subject to single use plastic bans in WA & SA.
- PP and PET lined cartons have a higher temperature & chemical resistance to PE, and therefore may be microwavable and in the case of PET also ovenable

PLA Quick Facts:

- PLA cartons are not plastic free, PLA is a bio-plastic.
- PLA cartons can be certified as industrially compostable, as the PLA lining breaks down into naturally occurring water and carbon dioxide.
- PLA does not break down fast enough to meet home compostable standards.
- NSW EPA do not want packaging in their compostables collection stream.

PBS Quick Facts:

- PBS Cartons are not plastic free, PBS is a plastic made from a combination of bio and non-bio sources
- PBS cartons can be certified as industrially compostable
- PBS does not break down fast enough to meet home compostable standards
- NSW EPA do not want packaging in their compostables collection stream
- PBS performance & functionality is almost identical to PE

Aqueous Quick Facts:

- Aqueous cartons are not plastic free.
- Aqueous cartons can be certified as Industrially or Home compostable, as the plastic particles in the lining are small enough to pass the current certification thresholds.
- When composted, the plastic particles from the lining may enter the environment.
- NSW EPA do not want packaging in their compostables collection stream.
- Aqueous or other water-based coatings may not perform to the same level as a extruded resin (i.e. PE, PBS, PLA) due to cracking of the resin in corners when the carton is formed

For more details about our market-leading packaging solutions, contact us:

Detpak
connect@detpak.com
detpak.com

Note: Compostable certifications must be applied for and are subject to the individual product specifications.

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detpak.com
connect@detpak.com

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