

Compostable Product Labeling and Declarations

Updates to Washington's Plastic Product Degradability Law

Overview

The Plastic Product Degradability Law ([Chapter 70A.455 Revised Code of Washington](#) (RCW)) sets marketing claim standards for compostable products sold in Washington State. The law requires labeling and declarations for compostable products. These requirements will reduce misleading, confusing, and deceptive labeling practices.

THIS LAW APPLIES TO THESE COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS SOLD IN WASHINGTON

- Film bags and film products
- Food packaging
- Food service products

PRODUCTS LABELED WITH THESE TERMS ARE PROHIBITED FROM SALE IN WASHINGTON

- “biodegradable”
- “degradable”
- “decomposable”
- “oxo-degradable”
- any similar term

Seven Things to Know

Products labeled as “compostable” that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed in Washington must:

- Meet ASTM D6400 or D6868 specs or be made of wood
- Meet U.S. FTC guide labeling requirements
- Feature labeling that meets industry standards for being distinguishable
- Use a third-party certification logo
- Display the word “compostable”
- Use green, beige, or brown labeling, striping, or other patterns that help differentiate compostable items from non-compostable
- Be included on the compliance declaration provided to Ecology

Important Dates

JANUARY 1, 2024

- Producers must meet labeling requirements.
- Producers submit product declarations.

JULY 1, 2024

- Ecology’s public complaint form available.
- Ecology will enforce requirements in consultation with local jurisdictions.

Compostable Products Declaration

By January 1, 2024, product producers required to meet the labeling requirements must submit a one-time declaration via [Ecology’s portal](#). The producer must declare, under penalty of perjury, that the product meets the standards established for that product. A new declaration is required after January 1, 2024:

- Before a compostable product is newly sold or distributed into Washington OR
- Before a product that has been materially changed is sold or distributed into Washington

Non-compostable Products

Manufacturers or suppliers of products that do not meet ASTM standards are:

- **PROHIBITED** from using tinting, labeling and terms that are required for products that meet the ASTM standards
- **DISCOURAGED** from using coloration, labeling, images, and terms that confuse consumers into believing that non-compostable items are compostable
- **ENCOURAGED** to use coloration, labeling, images, and terms that help consumers identify non-compostable items as recyclable or waste

Checklist: Compostable Products Labeling and Declarations

What the law requires for compostable products	Film Bags	Film Products	Food service products
Must be "readily and easily identifiable"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet an ASTM standard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D6400 • D6868 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Be labeled with third party certification logo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Entire item can be green, beige, or brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	At least partially colored	At least partially colored
Be labeled with word "compostable" on both sides and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1" green, beige, or brown lettering on both sides OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a 1" band that is green, beige, or brown with ½" color contrasting lettering 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Labeled with the word compostable		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partially colored/tinted green, beige or brown or have a green, beige or brown stripe or band 0.25 inch wide		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No use of the chasing arrow No use of recycling symbol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Submit producer declaration via Ecology database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6381 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877- 833-6341.