

# Melitta® PürPod100™ Compostable Pod FAQs

## **The Pods**

### **1. Why do these pods look different?**

Our Certified 100% Compostable single serve pods now feature a new brown ring, filter and lid that use plant-based materials including the coffee beans skins or “chaff”, which used to go to waste.

### **2. What are the pods made of?**

Over 90% of the total weight of a used PurPod100 is coffee grounds.

The remaining 10% of the weight is composed of an integrated lid, mesh filter and brown ring made of different materials, many from renewable sources.

- For example, the unique brown ring is made with materials. More than 20% of the ring is roasted coffee bean skins and 95% of the filter is plant-based material.
- Together the pod has earned approval as Certified 100% Compostable.

The lid, the mesh filter and the brown ring on the pod are made of different materials.

- 40% of the unique brown ring is made with renewable materials including roasted coffee bean skins, which coffee companies have been unable to use until PurPod100™
- 45% of its lid is made with renewable plant-based materials
- 95% of its filter is renewable plant based material

### **3. What does plant-based material mean?**

Substances from various plants are extracted and processed to help create the raw material for the pod.

### **4. What is coffee chaff?**

The natural skin of the coffee bean that comes off during the roasting process, like the skin of a peanut.

### **5. Do these pods have any traditional plastic?**

As a Certified 100% Compostable pod, these pods have so little conventional plastic that they actually break down to dirt in industrial and municipal composting programs. These pods use advanced materials made from renewable sources, such as plants, to replace almost all the traditional plastics so they break down.

## **Compostable**

### **6. The carton says this coffee pod is Certified 100% Compostable. What does compostable actually mean?**

A Certified 100% Compostable product has passed the independent testing process to confirm it will normally break down safely and relatively quickly into compost. Farmers and gardeners use compost to enrich the soil and help plants grow.

**7. Who certifies these pods as 100% Compostable?**

The Biodegradable Products Institute runs the independent and comprehensive process that certified these pods as compostable ([www.bpiworld.org](http://www.bpiworld.org)).

**8. Can I compost these anywhere?**

These are certified to break down in the kind of large-scale composting services that many municipalities and commercial industrial waste services offer.

Typically, those services receive food, leaf and yard waste either from curbside pickup or that people drop off directly. They take that waste and put it through processes to break it down. Many of them turn the waste into compost that can be used to enrich soil for agriculture and gardening. Some put it through processes to extract gases to meet energy needs.

**9. How long does it takes for the pod to compost in a municipal, commercial or industrial composting facility?**

Testing shows the pod can break down in as little as 5 weeks in well-managed composting processes -- like most food waste.

**10. Can I put the pods in all municipal, industrial or commercial composting systems?**

Check with your local composting facility operator.

These pods have met the standard to be called Certified 100% Compostable for typical curbside composting processes and for places where people drop off compostable items at depots. However, municipalities and other composting facility operators have their own guidelines for what they accept as being compostable.

Many automatically accept items that are Certified 100% Compostable by BPI (the Biodegradable Products Institute).

**11. Can I compost these pods in my backyard home composter?**

Currently there is no North American certification process to give consumers guidance on backyard composting.

Tests are taking place to determine how well the pod breaks down in different backyard composting conditions.

**12. Can I put the pods down the garbage disposal in my sink?**

It is not currently recommended to put the pods down a garbage disposal.

### **13. What do I do with the pods if I don't have composting near me?**

The number of people with access to composting programs is growing rapidly. We are exploring alternatives that other consumers can use. For now, the pods would have to go in the regular garbage.

### **14. What does the Compostable logo mean?**

The symbol is designed for use on products and packages. Now consumers, composters, waste haulers and officials can now easily distinguish those plastic products designed to biodegrade quickly, completely and safely, when composted in well-run municipal and commercial facilities. No plastic residues will be left behind to destroy the value of the finished compost. The BPI Logo now contains a unique certification number in the lower right corner, allowing you to identify the manufacturer or distributor of an approved product. More information can be found at [www.bpiworld.org/BPI-Public/Program.html](http://www.bpiworld.org/BPI-Public/Program.html)

## **Compostable vs. Biodegradable vs. Recyclable**

### **15. Are Certified 100% Compostable and biodegradable the same thing?**

No. Biodegradable simply means that something can break down over time in the right conditions and processes. However, that time can be many years, even if the conditions are right. For example, a tree trunk is biodegradable. The human body is biodegradable. Even crude oil is technically biodegradable.

Government consumer protection authorities tell business not to use the terms "biodegradable" because there is no standard definition or any independent way to test that claim.

A product can only call itself Certified 100% Compostable if it meets independent standards showing it will break down quickly into compost that meets requirements for how healthy it is for plants.

### **16. Are your single serve pods recyclable?**

Certified 100% Compostable is often preferable because small plastic items are often rejected in recycling processes.

## **Packaging**

### **17. Is the large silver inner bag compostable or recyclable?**

The inner bag has to meet challenging tests to ensure that it protects coffee from oxygen so consumers get the freshness and quality they expect.

We are working to develop packaging that will deliver those same results while diverting waste from landfills.

For now, the large silver inner bags can be re-used or disposed of with regular waste.

**18. Can I recycle the plastic wrapping that the individual single serve pods come in for the 20 and 40 count packages of Melitta pods?**

The freshness wrap for individually-wrapped pods is very light and has to meet challenging tests to ensure that it protects coffee from oxygen so consumers get the freshness and quality they expect.

We are working to develop packaging that will deliver those same results while diverting waste from landfills.

For now, that freshness wrapping should be disposed of with regular waste.

**19. Is the cardboard made from recycled fibers?**

Our carton is made from 100% recycled fibers with up to 65% post-consumer content.

**Miscellaneous**

**20. How do you make a pod?**

A highly automated process puts the lids, rings and mesh filter together to form the pod and then places the precise amount of coffee needed into each pod.

**21. Are your single serve pods compatible with Keurig K2.0 brewers?**

Yes.

**22. Why is there a green ring around the edge of the lid? Does it mean decaf?**

No, the green ring has a special coating that makes them work in Keurig 2.0-style single serve brewers.