



City of San Jose

## Alternatives to EPS Food Containers

August 2015 Reference Guide

PRODUCT GLOSSARY | MATERIAL GLOSSARY | VENDOR LISTING



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# Product Glossary

## BOWL



A bowl is a food container deep enough to hold soups, salads, and similar foods. Unlike a bowl to-go, it typically has a wide lip.

- **Available sizes: 4, 6, 8, 11.5, 12, and 20 fluid ounces.**
- **Available material types: Bagasse, EPS, Fiber, Miscellaneous Plastic, PLA, Polystyrene, and Wheat Straw**
- **Price range: \$.02 - \$.17 per unit**

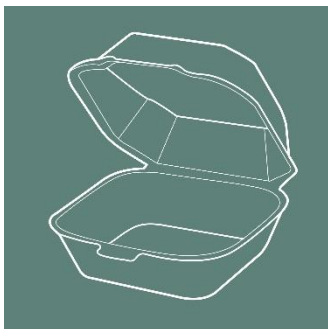
## BOWL TO-GO (+ LID)



A bowl to-go is similar to a bowl but is designed to be transported more easily. The primary difference between a bowl and a bowl to-go is that a bowl to-go typically has a more narrow lip that a lid can securely attach to.

- **Available sizes: 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, and 20 fluid ounces.**
- **Available material types: Bagasse, EPS, Fiber, PLA, Polypropylene, and Wheat Straw**
- **Price range: \$.02 - \$.40 per unit**

## CLAMSHELL



A clamshell is a box-like food container with a bottom compartment, a hinge, and a closeable lid. It typically has either a single compartment or a single compartment divided into 2-3 sections.

- **Available sizes: 6 to 13 inches in length on longest side.**
- **Available material types: Bagasse, EPS, Fiber, Miscellaneous Plastic, PET, PLA, Polypropylene, Polystyrene, and Wheat Straw.**
- **Price range: \$.05 - \$.62 per unit**

### COLD CUP



A cold cup is a container for liquids that are typically served cold or lukewarm.

- **Available sizes: 8, 9, 12, 14, and 16 fluid ounces.**
- **Available material types: Fiber, Miscellaneous Plastic, PET, PLA, and Polystyrene.**
- **Price range: \$.01 - \$.20 per unit**

### DELI BOX



A deli box is a box-like food container with foldable flaps on its top side for opening and closing the container.

- **Available sizes: 6, 7, 7.75, 8, and 8.75 inches in length on longest side.**
- **Available material types: Fiber.**
- **Price range: \$.12 - \$.57 per unit**

### DELI CONTAINER



A deli container is a box-like food container with a bottom compartment and a separate lid that snaps on and off for opening and closing the container.

- **Available sizes: range from 6 to 38 fluid ounces.**
- **Available material types: Miscellaneous Plastic, PET, Polypropylene, and Polystyrene.**
- **Price range: \$.05 - \$.77 per unit**

### HOT CUP (+ LID)



A hot cup is a container that can handle liquids that are served cold, lukewarm, or hot.

- **Available sizes: 6, 8, 12, and 16 fluid ounces.**
- **Available material types: EPS and Fiber.**
- **Price range: \$.01 - \$.23 per unit**

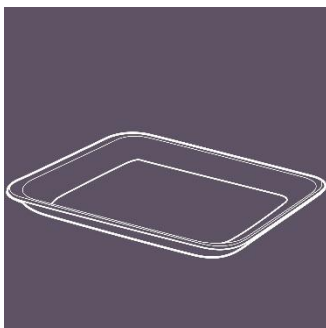
### PLATE



A plate is a flat, circular food container.

- **Available sizes: 6, 7, 9, and 10 inch diameter.**
- **Available material types: Bagasse, EPS, and Fiber.**
- **Price range: \$.02 - \$.23 per unit**

### TRAY



A tray is a flat, rectangular food container. It sometimes comes with a lid that snaps into it.

- **Available sizes: range from 5 to 18.6 inches in length on the longest side.**
- **Available material types: Bagasse, EPS, Fiber, PET, PLA, Wheat Straw**
- **Price range: \$.02 - \$2.38 per unit**

# Material Glossary

(Images collected from merchant and manufacturer websites. Please click on photos to view image sources.)

## BAGASSE (AND VARIANTS)



Bagasse is the fibrous material that remains after sugarcane stalks are pressed to extract their juice. Bagasse variants refers to fibrous materials from other plant types that result from similar pressing processes. Variants may include sorghum bagasse or agave bagasse.

Food serveware made from bagasse is a light brown or white (bleached) pressed and molded fiber material. It is sometimes coated with a thin layer of plastic; for example, certain food serveware products are made of Bagasse w/ PLA lining. (For more information about the PLA polymer, please refer to the PLA section below.)

**Recyclable/Compostable/Garbage:** This material is typically compostable.

## FIBER

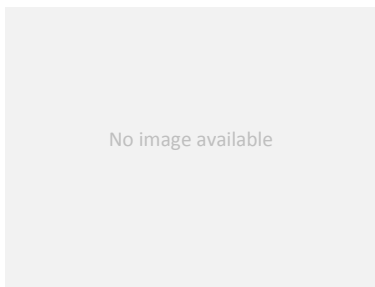


For the purposes of this study, fiber refers to paper fiber derived from trees. Food serveware made from fiber is often flat sheets of thick paper material folded or molded into a container shape. It is sometimes coated with a thin layer of plastic, as in the following material types:

- **Fiber w/ PE coating**
- **Fiber w/ PLA coating**

For more information about the polymers that make up the coatings described here, please refer to the PE and PLA sections below. This inventory also includes the category Fiber w/Miscellaneous Plastic Lid. This is a fiber container with a lid that the vendor identifies as plastic, without providing any more specific detail about the plastic type.

**Recyclable/Compostable/Garbage:** This material is typically compostable if unlined. When lined, it is typically garbage.



## MISCELLANEOUS PLASTIC

Miscellaneous Plastic products in this inventory are products that the vendor lists as “plastic” without providing any further detail about plastic type. There is not one set of physical characteristics that products in this material category have in common.

**Recyclable/Compostable/Garbage:** N/A.

POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE (PET)



Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is a common plastic polymer type. When marked for identification, it bears the number "1" in the center of the triangular recycling symbol and may also bear the letters "PETE" or "PET". A PET container usually has a small dot left from the manufacturing process, not a seam. It does not turn white when bent. Food serveware made from PET is usually transparent green or clear.

**Recyclable/Compostable/Garbage:** This material is typically recyclable.

PLA



Polylactic acid (PLA) is a plastic polymer derived from non-petroleum sources including cornstarch, tapioca roots, and sugarcane. When marked for identification, it bears the number "7" in the center of the triangular recycling symbol. It is visually similar to PET products.

**Recyclable/Compostable/Garbage:** N/A.

POLYPROPYLENE #5 (AND VARIANTS)



Polypropylene #5 is a plastic polymer that results in more rigid products than products made of PET and PLA. When marked for identification, polypropylene #5 items may bear the label "PP" or the number "5" in the triangular recycling symbol. Polypropylene #5 food serveware products are most commonly clear or opaque black.

This inventory includes the following polypropylene #5 variants:

- **Polypropylene #5 & talc powder (natural mineral)**
- **Polypropylene #5 container w/#4 PE lid. #4 PE is low-density polyethylene. Low-density polyethelene is a flexible, durable plastic type that typically comes in opaque and translucent colors. Because it is flexible, it is often used in materials like snap-on lids.**

**Recyclable/Compostable/Garbage:** This material is typically recyclable.

POLYSTYRENE #6



Polystyrene #6 refers to the non-expanded version of the polystyrene plastic polymer. Polystyrene #6 food serveware is visually similar to PET and PLA but more brittle. It is typically clear in food serveware applications.

**Recyclable/Compostable/Garbage:** This material is sometimes recyclable.

### WHEAT STRAW



Wheat straw is the fibrous residue that remains after grain is extracted from wheat stalks. Food serviceware made from wheat straw is typically a light brown or white (bleached) pressed and molded fiber material. It is visually similar to bagasse.

**Recyclable/Compostable/Garbage:** This material is typically compostable.



# Vendor Listing

## LOCAL BRICK-AND-MORTAR STORES

1. Costco (in-store)	1709 Automation Parkway, San Jose 408-678-2150 <a href="http://www.costco.com/warehouse-locations/ne-san-jose-san-jose-ca-1004.html">www.costco.com/warehouse-locations/ne-san-jose-san-jose-ca-1004.html</a>
2. Dong Vinh Restaurant Supply	1979 Monterey Street, San Jose 408-298-4445 no website
3. Restaurant Depot	520 Brennan Street, San Jose 408-432-0107 <a href="http://www.restaurantdepot.com/">www.restaurantdepot.com/</a> .
4. Smart & Final	1738 Hillsdale Avenue, San Jose 408-264-0454 <a href="http://locations.smartandfinal.com/CA/San-Jose/530/">http://locations.smartandfinal.com/CA/San-Jose/530/</a> .

## ONLINE RETAILERS

Biodegradable Store	<a href="http://www.biodegradablestore.com/">http://www.biodegradablestore.com/</a>
BioMass Packaging	<a href="http://biomasspackagingstore.com/">http://biomasspackagingstore.com/</a>
Cash & Carry	<a href="https://www.smartfoodservice.com/">https://www.smartfoodservice.com/</a>
Costco (online)	<a href="http://www.costco.com/">http://www.costco.com/</a>
FoodPackagingWarehouse.com	<a href="http://www.foodpackagingwarehouse.com/">http://www.foodpackagingwarehouse.com/</a>
FoodServiceDirect.com	<a href="http://www.foodservicedirect.com/">http://www.foodservicedirect.com/</a>
Food Service Warehouse	<a href="http://www.foodservicewarehouse.com/">http://www.foodservicewarehouse.com/</a>
MrTakeOutBags.com	<a href="http://1.mrtakeoutbags.com/">http://1.mrtakeoutbags.com/</a>
Wasserstrom Restaurant Supply	<a href="http://www.wasserstrom.com/">http://www.wasserstrom.com/</a>
WebstaurantStore	<a href="http://www.webstaurantstore.com/">http://www.webstaurantstore.com/</a>
<b>World Centric</b>	<a href="http://www.worldcentric.org/">http://www.worldcentric.org/</a>