

THIRSTY FOR CHANGE

FAQ. COMPOSTING N-VIRO CUPS.

1. HOW DOES INDUSTRIAL COMPOSTING DIFFER FROM A COMPOST HEAP IN MY BACK GARDEN?

Home composting is a relatively simple process that can easily be done at home using waste food and garden cuttings. Industrial facilities mix similar types of waste but on a much larger scale. These systems reach a much higher temperature than a home compost heap. Industrial composting facilities are also strictly regulated and therefore the process is controlled to maintain quality and safety standards.

2. HOW DOES THE COMPOSTING PROCESS WORK?

The industrial composting facilities that the FLAVIA N-viro cups are sent to combine our cups with other organic waste including mixed green and kitchen waste collected from households. This mixture of waste is then treated in a controlled environment, which is designed to provide the optimal conditions for microorganisms to quickly decompose the waste. The end product is high quality compost that meets the PAS 100 Composting Association standard.

3. WHAT IS THE COMPOST USED FOR?

When the FLAVIA N-viro cups are collected they are sent to a range of composting facilities across the UK. The majority of the compost made by these composting facilities is used in agriculture as the compost is highly suitable for farmland. Smaller quantities are used for horticulture, landscaping, land restoration and reclamation. The main benefit of composting is that it helps to put back nutrients into soil. All of the composting facilities that we send our N-viro cups to, make compost which meets the PAS 100 quality standard.

4. THE CUPS ARE NOT GREEN WASTE; DO THEY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE COMPOST PRODUCED?

The materials used to make the cups are mainly organic fibres as well as a bio-plastic called PLA, which is derived from cornstarch. When composted in industrial composting facilities, the N-viro cups have no impact on the end quality of the compost. After 2 - 3 months* in the industrial composting facilities the end product is compost which is made from N-viro cups and green waste. This compost meets the PAS 100 quality standard for compost. The Save-a-Cup bin bag has also been approved for use by the composting facilities and will not impact the quality of the compost.

5. HOW CAN COMPOSTING HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

The benefit of using compost for agriculture and horticulture include improving soil structure, retaining moisture and providing a valuable source of nutrients for the soil. In addition, by diverting the cups from landfill sites the environmental benefits are even greater. Composting the N-viro cups can help to reduce both the quantity of waste going to landfill and also the harmful greenhouse gasses that would otherwise be produced in these sites from non-composted waste.



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6. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING FOR MY WORKPLACE?

Being part of the Save-a-Cup scheme could help your workplace to contribute to meeting your environmental targets and help satisfy corporate recycling policies. It is also a way to show your employees that their voice is heard. In addition, reducing the amount of waste your workplace sends to landfill may help to reduce the amount of landfill tax your business has to pay.

7. HOW MUCH COMPOST IS ACTUALLY PRODUCED BY THE N-VIRO CUPS?

The cups are not composted in isolation and are mixed with a range of green waste and other waste streams therefore it is difficult to say how much compost a certain amount of N-viro cups actually creates. Tests at one of the industrial composting facilities we use have shown that if we were to compost 10,000 cups within a mix of other waste, 1 tonne of compost would be made.*

8. WHAT HAPPENS IF NON- COMPOSTABLE WASTE IS MIXED INTO THE WASTE STREAM?

Introducing non-compostable waste into composting facilities can reduce the quality of the compost and have a real impact on the composting process. If bags of N-viro cups are considered to be unsuitable to send to composting facilities, then rather than send the waste to landfill, it will be sent to Waste2Energy facilities to be turned into energy. If contamination of N-viro cup bags with non-compostable waste becomes a regular problem then it may be necessary for Save-a-Cup to review the service they are able to offer your site.

*Figures based on trial carried out at TEG environmental on a sample of 180,000 cups.

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