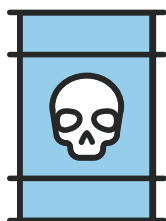


MYTHBUSTING BIOPLASTICS

BIOPLASTICS AREN'T ALL MADE EQUAL

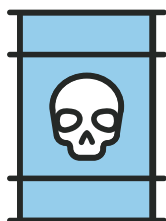
The term “bioplastic” is an umbrella term for plastics completely or partially made from plants (bio-based plastic) or plastic that is marketed as biodegradable or compostable. Bioplastic products often look and feel like plastic and are typically made using the same processes and toxic additives as traditional plastic. They may or may not biodegrade or compost, depending on how a product is made.



FOSSIL-FUEL BASED

Petroleum-based plastic with degradation additives

- Non-compostable
- Non-recyclable
- Creates microplastics



BLEND OF BOTH

Bio-based material mixed with fossil-fuel based plastic

- Non-compostable
- Contaminates recycling streams
- Creates microplastics



PLA: Chemically Altered Plant Sugars



PHA / PHB: Microbial Fermentation

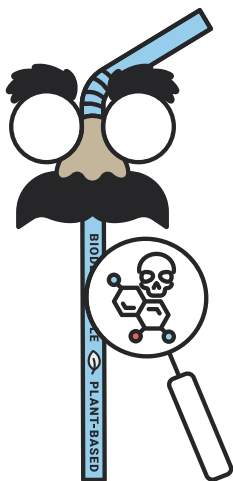
BIO-BASED

Chemically altered or bio-fermented plant materials

- PLA is only compostable at high heat industrial composting facilities (only a few exist in the US)
- PHA/PHB can break down naturally depending on how it's made
- May contaminate recycling streams
- PLA creates microplastics

BAD INGREDIENTS IN DISGUISE: GREENWASHING RED FLAGS

Greenwashing occurs when companies intentionally label and market products as environmentally friendly that do not actually provide an environmental benefit. Consumers may feel better about their choices, even though those items may have similar or even worse environmental impacts than their previous choice in products. What's worse, these products are often more expensive than the ones they intend to replace.



Buzzwords

Watch out for claims not backed up by certifications or data. Ex: “renewable,” “biodegradable,” “eco,” “green,” or “plant-based”

Mimics Regular Plastic

If a product looks and feels like plastic, then it could be plastic or bioplastic. More info is needed about product ingredients.

Missing Certifications

A product that says “bio-based” without listing the USDA Biobased certified percentage, may not be truly bio-based at all.

Lack of Transparency

Take some time to explore the product's website. If ingredients or processes aren't clearly listed, the product may be greenwashing.