

Uh oh! - Why it is a FOGO no, no



✗ Pet poo and poo bags

Studies show that pathogens including viruses and intestinal worm eggs, are not always killed at composting facilities. To protect human health, potential pathogen sources such as pet poo, pet litter and poo bags cannot be added to FOGO green-lid bins. These should go in the red bin to be sent to landfill. Agricultural manures can go into compost because commercial composting facilities know how to process these.

✗ Vacuum cleaner dust, washing machine and dryer lint

Studies show that vacuum cleaner dust derived from furniture, textiles and electronic devices is a potential source of poly-brominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) chemicals while lint from washing machines and dryers concentrates micro plastics that shed from synthetic textiles. These wastes should go in the red bin to go to landfill.

✗ Fibre-based materials

Fibre-based materials, such as bamboo, timber or cardboard packaging and cutlery, paper towels and serviettes.

Fibre-based food contact materials including baking paper, coffee filters, paper towels, serviettes; fibre-based food containers such as coffee cups, pizza boxes, plates, bowls; paper bags; cardboard packaging; and other compostable plastic bags do not go in the FOGO green-lid bin.

These products often contain additives to provide water and grease resistance in food packaging, and can include per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which may cause human and environmental harm. All Australian governments have agreed that further release of PFAS into the environment from ongoing use should be prevented where practicable. These products provide negligible or no nutrient value to compost.

Additional information on liners

Why compostable plastic kitchen caddy liners are allowed but not other compostable plastics?

Research has shown that compostable products provide negligible or no nutrient value to compost.

Compostable plastic kitchen caddy liners represent only a small amount of manufactured compostable material and help divert food waste from landfill by enabling easier and cleaner food waste collections for households and businesses.

Compostable plastic kitchen caddy liners that comply Australian industry-certified compostable kitchen caddy liners that comply with Australian Standard 4736:2006 (for commercial facilities) means they can fully break down when appropriately processed at a commercial composting facility. The Australian standard differs slightly to overseas standards, for example, by requiring worm and plant toxicity tests.