



## EcoNugget

### Biodegradable vs Compostable What's the Difference?

- Each type of product requires different conditions in order for them to be broken down.
- **Biodegradable (BD)** products, if given enough time, will be broken down **naturally** by bacteria, fungi, or some other biological process.
- **Compostable (CP)** products need a **special environment** containing microorganisms, carbon, water, oxygen and nitrogen in order to be broken down. This environment is best created in a **commercial compost facility**.
- Unfortunately, most CP and BD products **are not currently accepted** in the Region of Waterloo's Green Bin or Blue Box program because they do not decompose fast enough to be composted.
- To find out which products are accepted by the Region, use the **Waste Whiz** application:  
<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/the-waste-whiz.aspx#>
- **Note:** Even with the challenges noted above, it is still always better to buy BD and CP products when you can as they are better for the environment.

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