

EcoSense™ FAQ Sheet

1. Is EcoSense™ FDA compliant?

Yes. All component materials used for production of EcoSense™ are FDA compliant.

2. Why is EcoSense™ considered 'Green'?

EcoSense™ is considered 'Green' because it is degradable, reusable and is produced domestically. Some EcoSense™ products also contain other inorganic materials and/or additives and use less petrochemical-based resins than other equivalent products.

3. Can I send EcoSense™ to my local commercial composting facility?

No. EcoSense™ cannot be composted in a composting facility because it will require a longer time to degrade. EcoSense™ contains a special additive that allows the product to biodegrade. The supplier of this special additive claims that, under suitable conditions, degradation time of disposable products containing this additive is 1 to 5 years. Most composting facilities require a much shorter degradation span.

4. What is WNA doing to confirm the additive manufacturer's claims?

WNA is in the process of verifying additive supplier claims and obtaining independent evidence of degradation in anaerobic environments. The rationale for testing in an anaerobic environment is to simulate the oxygen-deficient conditions in a landfill. To this end, WNA has contracted with a nationally-recognized university to conduct testing of EcoSense™ products. These test results will be published in the next 90 days.

5. What 'Green' certification exists for EcoSense™?

The proprietary degradable additive has been tested by the supplier under aerobic conditions under ASTM D5338-98 standard Test Method, and under anaerobic conditions using ASTM D 5511 Test Method. EcoSense™ products are manufactured according to the additive supplier's guidelines.

6. What is ASTM D 5511?

It is a test method promulgated by ASTM International and is titled "Standard Test Method for Determining Anaerobic Biodegradation of Plastic Materials Under High-Solids Anaerobic-Digestion Conditions." (www.astm.org)

7. What do EcoSense™ products biodegrade into?

EcoSense™ products degrade into water, carbon dioxide / methane gas, and organic solids.

8. Can I reuse EcoSense™ products?

Yes! EcoSense™ product can be washed in a residential dishwasher and reused. The heat dry cycle should not be used to minimize potential slight bending of product. Note, however, that EcoSense™ is a disposable product and is intended for single-use applications.

9. Is EcoSense™ recyclable? If so, are there any limitations what it can be mixed with?

Yes. EcoSense™ can be recycled with other (PP) Polypropylene-based products. PP is recycling symbol #5 – there are limited recycling facilities in the U.S. that recycle #5. Please check with your local municipality for more details.

10. Will EcoSense™ hold up to my hot food and drinks?

Yes! EcoSense™ products can readily handle foods up to 200° F.

11. Is EcoSense™ microwavable?

Yes.

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12. Is EcoSense™ made in the U.S. or imported?

EcoSense™ is made in the U.S. and therefore offers a lower carbon footprint over imported products of comparable construction.

13. Why is EcoSense™ a responsible environmental option?

We believe that environmental responsibility is not just an inherent attribute of the products but in the way they are used and disposed. If a compostable product that is made from a compostable resin is discarded in a landfill it will not biodegrade and will not present any environmental benefit. Therefore, it is both conscientious use and disposal that govern whether a product choice is environmentally responsible or not.

EcoSense™ products make sense in those situations where the primary disposal option available to the user is a landfill, which is the case today for majority of food-service items. The degradable additive present in EcoSense™ products offers the opportunity of reducing landfill burden by allowing the discarded products to degrade in a landfill. In addition, the carbon footprint of EcoSense™ products would be quite favorable in comparison to similar products that are imported from overseas. The footprint is further reduced when these products are reused and recycled.

About the Degradable Additive

The proprietary FDA compliant additive in WNA's EcoSense™ line is an active organic agent that allows microorganisms to attack the polymer chains and consume the plastic material. These microorganisms are present where there is decaying matter, e.g. in a landfill. The additive is supplied in an EVA carrier. The additive ingredients include an organic agent which allows scissoring of polymer chains and thereby facilitates microbial activity which leads to further breakdown of the plastic material and weight loss. The breakdown of the plastic material occurs in both oxygen-rich (aerobic) and in oxygen-deficient (anaerobic) environments.

What is EVA?

EVA is a polymer that approaches elastomeric materials in softness and flexibility, yet can be processed like other thermoplastics. The material has good clarity and gloss, barrier properties, low-temperature toughness, stress-crack resistance, hot-melt adhesive water proof properties and resistance to UV radiation. EVA is used in biomedical engineering applications as a drug delivery device. These devices are used in drug delivery research to slowly release a compound over time. As stated above, EVA is the biodegradable additive carrier.

Please forward additional questions to webmail1@wna.biz.

Thank you for your interest in EcoSense™.



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