

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE...?

COMPOSTABLE BAGS



- CAN be put in kerbside Organics bins
- Can NOT be put in kerbside Recycling bins
- Made from plant sources (eg. potato & corn starch), NOT plastic
- Feel softer than plastic ones, no 'scrunch' sound
- Will break down in commercial compost in less than 12 weeks
- Look for the logo – legal definition in Australia & Australian Standard
- Compostable bags are available from the Shire
- Have no harmful impact on compost



BIODEGRADABLE BAGS



- Can NOT be put in kerbside Organics bins or Recycling bins
- Can be made from plant sources, BUT can be made from plastic, or a combination of both plant & plastic
- No legal definition currently exists for these bags in Australia
- If made from only plant sources will break down in commercial compost but take more than 12 weeks
- May contain toxins

DEGRADABLE BAGS



- Can NOT be put in kerbside Organics bins or Recycling bins
- Made from non-renewable oil/petroleum sources
- Plastic bags with added CHEMICALS to help bags 'fall apart' faster
- Make a 'scrunch' sound
- Take hundreds, often thousands, of years to break down
- Contain toxins

PLASTIC BAGS



- Can NOT be put in kerbside Organics bins or Recycling bins
- Made from non-renewable oil/petroleum sources
- Make a 'scrunch' sound
- Take hundreds, often thousands, of years to 'break down'
- Major source of pollution
- Some supermarkets (eg. Coles, Woolworths) will accept returned shopping bags for recycling
- Contain toxins

**For further information contact
Regional Waste Education Officers on 9792 7350**