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## Storage and use

Compostable bags are made with plant extracts and are naturally biodegradable, so they need a little more care than ordinary plastic bags.

They are best kept in a cool dry place out of direct sunlight and safe away from young children and pets.



They will last up to 12 months if stored with care but will weaken with age, so don't keep more than you need. If you store them under a sink or in a garden shed don't let them get damp or mouldy.

**Date** The Compost Bag Company Ltd puts the manufacture date on the side of our bags so that you can check.

**In use** Our bags come in many sizes, but we aim for them to fit snugly around the rim of your caddy so that the bag doesn't fall in. For your safety let hot foods and teabags cool slightly before using the caddy. Most council schemes ask you to avoid liquids.

Do save bags by filling them, but after a few days, especially in

warmer weather, change them before they start to break down. Most households use about three bags a week.



**Food collections** It helps your bin collection crew, and is better for composting and treatment, if your waste is fresh. Please don't miss a collection just because you don't have much in your bin.

**Composting** Your bag full of waste is composted very quickly in hot industrial composting units where soilimprovers can be made in as little as eight weeks.

Home compost piles are never this efficient and compostable bags will take longer but do break down fully. Composting is 'aerobic' and needs oxygen. Compost Bags are very like leaves and twigs in that they biodegrade into CO2, H2O and biomass. Without oxygen it would get smelly. Keep the pile as light and 'fluffy' as possible. Use whole cardboard tubes etc to create air pockets, and stir it as often as you can (industrial composters turn it weekly or more).

Keep the pile damp but not wet, encouraging mould. And always mix your food wastes with lots of garden cuttings.

At the beginning of the season when you need your compost seive out the larger peices - leaves, twigs and any bits of bag that are left, and return them to the compost pile where they will help restart your next batch with bugs. Eventually even the twigs and knots will completely biodegrade.

Other scenarios one of the benefits of using a compostable bag is that no matter where it ends up it will biodegrade, without leaving fragments of plastic. It was made with plant extracts and will go back to soil just as nature intended.

