

Certified homecompostable coffee capsule - FAQ



What is so special about the capsule?

The whole capsule has received the very rare certificate „Ok compost HOME “. More than 98% of the other „bio-capsules „on the market have at most the „OK compost INDUSTRIAL“ certificate. When purchasing your coffee capsules, look for the „Ok-compost HOME “certificate on the packaging.

„OK compost INDUSTRIAL“ means that the raw material decomposes very slowly under natural conditions. Temperatures >50°C are required for composting.

„OK compost HOME“ means that the raw material decomposes quickly at much lower temperatures, such as those prevailing in garden soil or garden compost. Even in the winter period there is a significant reduction.

What is the capsule made of?

The coffee capsule is made of **GOLDEN COMPOUND**  green the innovative material from the hulls of the sunflower seeds, a mineral filler and BioPBS™. It is important to note that the hulls of the sunflower seeds are a by-product of the production of sunflower seeds.

What about the sunflower seeds and the sunflower oil?

The sunflower seeds and the sunflower oil are processed in the food industry.

What does BioPBST™ consist of?

BioPBST™ is a starch-based bioplastic. By using this bioplastic, we save up to 70% of fossil resources compared to the production of conventional, non-bio-based plastics. Our aim is to increase this share to 100% over the next few years.

Are foodstuffs used for the production of BioPBST™?

The starch (sugar polymer) from maize plants is used in the production of BioPBST™. Since there is a large surplus of sugar, it makes sense to use the sugar molecules as raw materials. We have no conflict of interest with the food industry here. The valuable proteins of the plants are not used and can be further processed e.g. as animal feed.

What is the advantage of using bioplastics?

Fossil raw materials (e.g. oil) are only available to a limited extent. These sources will dry up in the foreseeable future. In addition, a large amount of climate-damaging CO₂ is released as soon as fossil materials are used. The coffee capsule is made of a material whose proportion based on natural resources is over 70% and we are working to further increase this proportion.

Is the coffee capsule really compostable in the garden soil and on the compost?

Yes, the coffee capsule is compostable under real conditions such as in home compost. No high temperatures are required for degradation. Only moisture, oxygen and the microorganism found in the soil are needed for the composting of our capsule.

Can the coffee capsule be disposed of in the organic waste bin?

In Germany, the municipalities responsible for waste disposal have so far refused to include biodegradable coffee capsules in the bio-waste bin, as the biowaste treatment plants are not designed for their co-treatment. So unfortunately, the capsule is still affected at the moment. In Germany, coffee capsules must be disposed of with residual waste if they are not to be disposed of in the home compost. Since in Germany residual waste is mainly used to generate energy, this recycling saves fossil fuels. During combustion, CO₂-

neutral energy is generated for which a climate credit is generated.

Golden Compound is in intensive contact with various municipalities, waste disposal companies and federal politics. Our aim is the official approval of certified home compostable coffee capsules for disposal in the organic waste bin. We keep our customers up to date.

Is microplastic generated when the capsule is used?

No, the capsules do not lead to more microplastic in the environment. The coffee capsule decomposes at different rates depending on the condition of the soil (90% within 6 months according to the standard). On the way to complete decay, smaller and smaller fragments of the capsule are formed, which are further and further broken down. In comparison to microplastic, which has remained unchanged in the soil for centuries, these capsule particles are completely degraded after a few years and cannot longer be detected.

Does the capsule contain any allergens?

The coffee capsule and the associated sealing foil do not contain any allergenic substances that must be labelled according to Annex II of Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 or traces of such substances.