

Chicopee J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable

F.A.Q (Frequently Asked Questions)

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1. Terminology & introduction

1.1 What is disintegration?

Disintegration is a mechanical degradation of a product. Wipes are mechanically broken down by bacteria into small pieces. From wipe to small pieces of material.

1.2 What does Biodegradable means?

Biodegradable refers to the ability of materials to break down and return to nature. Biodegradation is a chemical degradation of a product. Wipes are chemically broken down by bacteria into gasses. From carbon to carbon Dioxide (CO₂).

Disintegration and biodegradation are happening at the same time. Water, light and oxygen are required to put the disintegration and biodegrading process in motion. Together with the right temperature (+/- 60 degrees Celsius), the best conditions for the bacteria are obtained.

1.3 What does Compostable means?

Composting is a combined process of disintegration and biodegradation in such a way that it leaves the perfect compost quality by providing the earth with nutrients once the material has completely broken down. The perfect compost quality is proven when plants are growing on the compost produced from the product that is broken down, for example the J-cloth Biodegradable.

1.4 What is the difference between Biodegradation and composting?

They are often lumped together; however, they do not have the same meaning. Biodegradation is the naturally occurring breakdown of materials by microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi or other biological activity. Composting is a human-driven process in which biodegradation occurs under a specific set of circumstances. The predominant difference is that the biodegradation process is naturally occurring and composting is human-driven. Essentially, composting is an accelerated biodegradation process due to optimized circumstances.

1.5 What is the difference between home and industrial (commercial) composting?

The two main types of composting are at-home and Industrial (commercial). Both produce healthy soil to be re-used, the main difference lies in what materials are able to go into the process and how they are processed.

Industrial Composting can be defined as the controlled biological decomposition of organic waste under managed conditions that are predominantly aerobic (i.e. in the presence of oxygen) and that allow the development of thermophilic conditions because of biologically produced heat.

Thermophilic describes temperatures around 50-65 °C or higher.

When referring to at-home or backyard composting, a cooler aerobic breakdown of organic material or waste is meant, usually in small-scale composters and by 'slow-stack' treatment methods. Temperatures are in the psychrophilic (0-20 °C) to mesophilic (20-45 °C) ranges. The volumes treated in home composting are considerably smaller than in industrial composting and the compost is usually used in private gardens.

1.6 What is PEFC?

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization, which promotes sustainable forest management through independent third party certification. PEFC promotes Chain of Custody certification.

PEFC Chain of Custody certification is essential for:

- companies to implement and demonstrate ethical business behaviour, and
- consumers to make responsible purchasing decisions

For a product to qualify for certification, all entities along the supply chain must possess a PEFC Chain of Custody certificate. Only then are companies eligible to use the PEFC label on their products and in product marketing to highlight the responsible sourcing of the raw material.

1.7 What is bio-based?

Bio-based products are products that are wholly or partly derived from renewable raw materials. Organisations can use the bio-based content certification scheme to demonstrate the (minimum share of) bio-based content in their products and label them with this claim. In order to claim bio-based content the product need to be tested and certified by an authorized body. In Europe, there are two certified bodies:

- Din Certco
- TÜV Austria Belgium

A product can already be certified when the content of renewable raw materials is at least 20%.

1.8 Does bio-based mean that the product is biodegradable or compostable?

No, a bio-based product, even when 100% bio-based, does not mean that the product is biodegradable or compostable. The product must be tested and certified by the OK Compost or Seeding logo.

2. Product

2.1 Is the J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable also compostable?

Yes, the product is tested and certified Biodegradable and Compostable (Industrial) according to DIN EN 13432:2000-12-test standard. The product is tested by Din Certco and registered under registration number 7P0314.

2.2 What material is the J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable wipe made from?

The product is made from 100% Viscose fibres. Viscose as a natural and biodegradable fibre. The fibres used for the J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable are PEFC certified and 100% sourced from sustainably managed forest and controlled sources. The fibres are registered under registration number PEFC/30-31-736.

2.3 What material is the J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable packaging made from?

The shipper carton is made from 100% recycled corrugate carton and is completely FSC certified.

The polybag is made from a 100% compostable plastic and certified as compostable in both industrial and home composting facilities. The polybag is both compostable and biodegradable in accordance with the DIN EN 13432:2000-12 standard and registered under registration number 7P0342.

2.4 Is the product certified to come in contact with food? (Food contact clearance, FCC)

The product is externally tested and certified by test institute ISEGA.

The wipe is in compliance with the rules of Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and repealing Directives 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC, Official Journal of the European Union L338/4 of 13.11.2004, modified by app. No. 5.17 of the regulation (EC) no 596/2009 of 18 June 2009, Official Journal of the European Union L 188 of 18 July 2009, article 3.

As well as of the (Foodstuffs, Consumer Goods and Animal Feed code (Foodstuffs and Animal Feed code – LFGB) in the version of the notification of 3 June 2013 (BGBl. P 1426), last amendment by article 1 of the act of 30 June 2017 (BGBl. I p. 2147, SS 30 and 31).

Thus the nonwoven grade J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable in various colours according to the sample material submitted may be used safely as Wipes. They may stand in direct contact with dry, moist and fatty foodstuffs for a short period of time.

2.5 Can I just throw the empty polybag away on the street or in nature?

While the material is biodegradable and compostable it is not intended to be “just” thrown away. Ideally, the wipe is disposed of in the organic waste collection. However, if no separate collection of organic waste is available, the product might be disposed of in the residual waste bin to avoid littering and contribute to a sustainable and circular economy.

2.6 Can the J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable be used in combination with chemicals and solvents?

Yes, the wipe is compatible with a wide range of cleaning chemicals. We strongly advise to use only chemicals that have the European Eco-label. Make sure to rinse the wipe before disposing.

2.7 Is the J-cloth Biodegradable washable?

No, the product is not intended to be washed and is designed for short-term usage.

3. Others

3.1 What is the point of disposables being compostable?

Compostable disposables are designed to be recycled in an industrial composting facility together with food waste. That means there is no need for sorting, and the compostable wipes or other compostable materials can all go together in one bin. An extra bonus is that once food and disposables share one bin, other dry recycling bins are cleaner and easier to recycle.

3.2 Does the product contain formaldehyde?

No, the product is free of formaldehyde according to test method ISO 14184-1 (2011).

Determination limit 16 ppm (mg/kg)

Extract	mg/kg
1	< 16.0
2	< 16.0
Average	< 16.0

The procedure is intended for use in the range of free and hydrolysed formaldehyde on the fabric between 16 mg/kg and three 500 mg/kg when determined by this method. The lower limit is 16 mg/kg. Below this limit, the result is reported as "not detectable".

3.3 Can the product be disposed using a PDU? (pulp disposing unit)

The Chicopee J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable wipes are not intended to be disposed of using a PDU and if this should happen damage can be caused to the macerator unit. The wipes are not suitable of flushing by means of maceration into a drainage system. Disposal in this fashion is therefore not recommended.

3.4 Can I flush the wipe via the toilet after use?

No, the wipes are not designed to be flushed. Although the wipe is 100% Biodegradable and Compostable it's not advised to flush the wipe. Wipes are a key cause of the pipe blockages and pump clogging throughout Europe. Even worse, the material can end up in rivers, lakes or the ocean. Always dispose of the material in the appropriate waste bin to avoid littering and contribute to a sustainable and circular economy.

3.5 What is the difference between aerobic and anaerobic biodegradation?

Aerobic biodegradation is the breakdown of organic contaminates by microorganism when oxygen is present. The degradation of compounds by microorganisms in the absence of oxygen is termed as anaerobic biodegradation. There are some notable differences between aerobic and anaerobic biodegradation.

Aerobic	Anaerobic
Most rapid and fast degradation	Time consuming and slow
No pungent gas produced	Pungent gas produced
Not able to degrade detergents	Can degrade detergents

The J-cloth Biodegradable and Compostable has been tested under Aerobic conditions. Aerobic, unlike anaerobic digestion, does not produce the pungent gases (methane). The aerobic process results in a more complete digestion of waste solids reducing buildup by more than 50% in most cases. The aerobic process also improves the environment of the workers and the animals and helps to keep pathogens in check.

3.6 Is a 100% Viscose wipe always Biodegradable and Compostable?

No, while Viscose is a natural and biodegradable fibre this does not make the product Biodegradable and Compostable. The product should always carry the correct Seeding logo in combination with the registration number, see image *Correct Din Certco logo*.

The Seeding logo is a registered trademark owned by European Bioplastics. It proves that a product is certified industrially Compostable according to the European standard EN 13432.



Correct Din Certco logo

The registration number below the Seeding refers to the valid certificate and confirms the product's conformity with the certification scheme. On a certified product, this number must always be shown as it allows to trace the product and to check the validity of the certification. When a product does not contain the Seeding logo and the registration number, the product is not Biodegradable and Compostable.

3.7 What can be said about the environmental impact in case a J-Cloth Biodegradable and Compostable wipe is still disposed on landfill? Will it still compost?

Composting is a process that needs certain atmospheric weathering conditions as for e.g. time, microorganisms, Oxygen (aerobic) and temperature. In case these conditions are given in the landfill, composting will always take place and the wipe will disappear as CO₂ at some point. The speed will depend on how ideal these conditions are, however always slower than in the controlled industrial composting process. In case these conditions are not given, for example wipe trapped or wrapped between non-composting plastic materials that isolate the wipe from these weathering conditions, the wipe will not compost but may still do so when the conditions changes.

The positive features of J-cloth biodegradable related to landfill:

- When the wipe is not getting the chance to compost nothing will happen and nothing will be harmed. Wipes that contain synthetic fibres or non-certified natural fibres will degrade to Micro plastics.
- When it gets a chance (right conditions) to compost it will disappear as CO₂
- When it turns to CO₂ it is not adding but rather returning CO₂ which was once taken away from the nature as trees for the viscose fibre production (short cycle CO₂)
- Synthetic wipe: Due to weathering, may also fall apart with time in landfill and eventually turn to micro plastics. In case burned as waste it will be adding CO₂ to the atmosphere as originated from crude oil (long cycle CO₂)