

GreenScreen Certified[®] Single-Use Food Service Ware & Thermal Paper



Products certified to the GreenScreen Certified® Standard for Single-Use Food Service Ware & Thermal Paper are PFASfree and use preferred chemistry.

Eliminating toxic chemicals in food take out containers and thermal paper (receipts) is urgently needed and is a priority reason for the creation of the GreenScreen Certified Standard for Single-Use Food Service Ware & Thermal Paper. Not only does the standard prohibit the use of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) but it prevents the use of thousands of other chemicals of concern and gives manufacturers clear guidance on how to integrate preferred chemistry into their products.

As with other GreenScreen Certified standards, the entire class of PFAS is prohibited because of their chemical hazards and the fact that they can be found in food contact materials. PFAS are known as "Forever Chemicals" because they do not break down in the environment, have become global pollutants and are now found in the blood of 97% of Americans. Because PFAS impart resistance to oil, grease, and water, they are widely used in food contact materials such as grease-proof wraps and take out containers.

PFAS are a threat to the health of humans and wildlife because these chemicals reside in the body for long periods of time and increase in concentration up the food chain. According to the <u>US National Institute of Environmental</u> <u>Health Sciences</u>, exposure to PFAS is associated with adverse health outcomes including altered metabolism, fertility, reduced fetal growth and increased risk of being overweight or obese.

Bisphenols, found in many thermal receipt papers, can interfere with normal hormone function, potentially leading to developmental abnormalities or contributing to disease or obesity. Because bisphenols are associated with health impacts, some companies are sourcing bisphenol-free receipts, but much more needs to be done.





Hazardous chemicals in products perpetuate toxic end of life management

Hazardous chemicals create problems throughout the product lifecycle. For example, when grease-proof wraps and take out containers made with PFAS and other hazardous chemicals are thrown into landfills, PFAS and other hazardous chemicals in the waste will eventually contaminate soil, water and air. Similarly, food service ware containing PFAS that is meant to be composted will contaminate the compost, which, if spread onto agricultural land, will further contaminate soil and food crops. In the case of thermal receipt papers containing bisphenols, these chemicals can contaminate the paper recycling stream.

That is why GreenScreen certified products are PFAS-free (defined as < 100 ppm total fluorine) and designed with preferred chemistry.

What products can be certified?

All thermal paper (receipts), single-use food service ware, and materials (e.g., coated paperboard or coatings) used in disposable food service ware, can be certified under the GreenScreen Certified® Standard for Single-Use Food Service Ware & Thermal Paper. This includes single-use disposable products used by a food provider for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-consume food or beverages including, but not limited to, plates, cups, bowls, trays, utensils, plastic straws, cup lids, hinged or lidded containers, and disposable gloves. The scope of the standard is limited to disposable food service ware designed to be compostable or recyclable, and materials (e.g., coated paperboard, or coatings) used in disposable food service ware designed to be compostable or recyclable. Carrier bags (for carrying food home from the store or restaurant) and prepacked food products (food or beverages filled and sealed in containers before the grocery store or restaurant receives them) are outside the scope of the current standard.

<u>Reusable containers and cutlery that are non-</u>

toxic and sustainably sourced are preferable to single-use service ware. However, as the market transitions to reusables, there is a need to address the chemical safety of single-use food service ware and thermal paper, much of which is now promoted as compostable or recyclable. Unless toxic chemicals are prevented from entering recycling or composting facilities, hazardous chemicals will continue to pose a danger to the environment and public health. That is why this certification was created.

All products must meet the requirement for full material disclosure under confidentiality and meet the requirements of the GreenScreen tools and the Restricted Substance List. In addition, all products must meet analytical testing requirements and end of life recyclability and/or compostability requirements.



The GreenScreen Certified® Standard for Single-Use Food Service Ware & Thermal Paper provides a pathway of continuous improvement through Silver, Gold and Platinum levels of certification.

As with other GreenScreen Certified products, the standard is based on GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals (GreenScreen), a global leader in chemical hazard assessment that benchmarks progress to safer chemicals. Products certified to the Silver level do not contain thousands of chemicals of concern as specified on the RSL (see below) and as determined by GreenScreen List Translator. Products certified to the Gold level require an in depth hazard assessment of each ingredient using GreenScreen, and products must not contain any chemicals with a GreenScreen Benchmark-1 score. Products certified to Platinum level are assessed using GreenScreen and must contain no chemicals with a GreenScreen Benchmark-1 or Benchmark-2 score.

All products must meet the requirement for full material disclosure under confidentiality and meet the requirements of the Restricted Substances List (RSL). In addition, all products must meet analytical testing requirements and end of life recyclability and/or compostability requirements.

Restricted Substances List (RSL)

Because single-use food service ware and thermal paper contain many chemical additives, the RSL is comprehensive, and includes endocrine disrupting chemicals such as bisphenols, ortho-phthalates, parabens, organotin compounds as well as a substantial list of chemical classes including PFAS, organohalogens, polycyclic aromatic amines and compounds of cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead, mercury and more. The RSL integrates the Food Packaging Forum's Priority Substances List as well as antimicrobials and nanomaterials.

Product level analytical testing

Product level analytical testing using a third party certified lab is required for fluorine, phthalates, heavy metals, bisphenols, solvents (for printed products and products with recycled content only), benzophenone (Gold and Platinum only), pentachlorophenol and antimicrobials.

End of life considerations and recycled content

All certified products must be recyclable and/or compostable according to requirements as set out in the standard. Polymeric materials (plastics) that are post-industrial recycled content are allowed in certified products if the materials are well-defined, fully characterized (i.e., inventory and disclosure requirements met) and meet all other certification requirements. Polymeric materials (plastics) that are post-consumer recycled content are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Access the GreenScreen Certified® Standard for Single-Use Food Service Ware & Thermal Paper and learn more about how to get certified at: Thermal Paper and learn more about how to get certified at: <u>greenscreenchemicals.org/certified</u>.



SUMMARY OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Section	Requirements	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Product Inventory	 Product Inventory includes: 1. Material Inventory of all homogeneous materials; and 2. Chemical Inventory for all additives including intentionally added chemical compounds plus impurities and residuals. 	✓	~	~
GreenScreen Hazard Evaluation	None of the chemical compounds, impurities, or residuals have a GreenScreen List Translator score of LT-1	✓	✓	\checkmark
	None of the substances, impurities or residuals assessed have a score of GreenScreen Benchmark-1		\checkmark	\checkmark
	None of the substances, impurities or residuals assessed have a score of GreenScreen Benchmark-1, Benchmark-2, Benchmark-2 _{DG} or Benchmark-2 _{TP}			✓
Restricted Substances List	Product meets Restricted Substances List (RSL) requirements and thresholds	✓	 	\checkmark
Product-level Analytical Testing	Product meets analytical testing requirements	✓	~	✓
End of Life Recyclability/ Compostability	Product meets end of life requirements	 Image: A start of the start of	✓	✓

1. For the Gold level, GreenScreen assessments are not required for chemicals in the Product Inventory that are on the US Environmental Protection Agency Safer Chemical Ingredients List (SCIL).

2. For the Silver level, GreenScreen assessments are preferentially used if they are freely and publicly available.

