

Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act

Update to Covered Material Category (CMC) List

Released December 31, 2025

Each year, millions of tons of single-use packaging and plastic food service ware are disposed of in California, making up a significant portion of landfill waste and contributing to widespread environmental pollution across the state.

The Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act [Senate Bill (SB) 54, Allen, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2022, the Act] establishes an extended producer responsibility program to reduce waste associated with single-use packaging and single-use plastic food service ware (covered material) in California.

The law requires that by 2032:

- Plastic covered material must be source reduced by 25 percent;
- Covered material must be recyclable or eligible to be labeled compostable; and
- Plastic covered material must achieve a 65 percent recycling rate.

CalRecycle published an initial assessment of covered material categories deemed recyclable and eligible for being labeled compostable in December 2023 and updated the CMC list on December 31, 2024. Through 2032, CalRecycle must annually update the list [PRC 42061(e)].

The list establishes the covered material categories themselves and CalRecycle's determinations of which categories satisfy the requirements to be considered "recyclable" or "eligible for being labeled 'compostable'" for purposes of the Act. For the first time, the CMC list includes estimated recycling rates for each CMC, which will be updated annually as part of regular CMC list updates [PRC 42061(b)].

Updated CMC List

Table 1 is the updated CMC list for the January 1, 2026 publication, including the following elements:

- **Covered Material Categories (CMC)** – Each covered material category identifies a combination of material type and form that describes covered materials. The categories are intended to apply to each detachable component of covered material individually. This update uses the CMCs published September 2, 2025.
- **Recyclability Determinations by CMC** – This includes determination of which categories satisfy the requirements to be considered "recyclable" for purposes of the Act. Changes since the last update reflect new data.
- **Compostability Determinations by CMC** – This includes determinations of which categories satisfy the requirements to be considered "eligible for being labeled 'compostable'" for purposes of the Act. Changes since the last update

are a result of the extension granted by the director on June 11, 2025, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) section 42357(g)(1)(B)(i) and (ii) for products that contain synthetic substances.

- **Recycling Rates by CMC** – This includes estimated percentages of covered material recycled in a year divided by the amount recycled and disposed. The amount recycled does not consider whether material reaches responsible end markets given that responsible end markets have not yet been identified for the purposes of the Act. For more information on the methodology and data sources used to estimate the recycling rates, see the Statewide Needs Assessment Report.

Please note that the CMC list is not a determination of whether any particular label violates PRC section 42355.51 or 42357. CalRecycle evaluates recyclability and compostability for purposes of SB 54 only, not for the purpose of determining liability under any other law.

How to Read the Table

The first through fourth columns of the table describe the covered material in each category.

- The **first column** of the table lists a category identification code (category ID) associated with each CMC.
 - Each category ID starts with a number that references the year of publication of the CMC List. For example, the “25” in category “25_M1N” refers to the September 2, 2025, CMC update.
 - Each category ID has one or two letters that indicate the Material Class of the CMC:
 - G = Glass
 - C = Ceramic
 - M = Metal
 - PF = Paper and Fiber
 - P = Plastic
 - WO = Wood and Other Organic Materials
 - Category IDs ending with “N” indicate the category is for material **without** a plastic component.
 - Category IDs ending with “P” indicate the category is for material **with** a plastic component.
 - An asterisk (*) indicates the category has changed since the last published list of CMCs (since December 31, 2024, publication).
 - Note: When a CMC changes, it is assigned a new category ID, and its previous category ID is retired. As a result, the category IDs may not be in numerical order.
- The **second column** describes the dominant Material Class of the item of covered material – Ceramic, Glass, Metal, Paper and Fiber, Plastic, or Wood and Other Organic Materials.

- The **third column** describes the dominant Material Type of the item of covered material. Material Types are specific to each Material Class.
- The **fourth column** describes the Form of the covered materials included in that CMC, including whether that covered material includes a plastic component.
 - If a Material Form is named “**All Forms**,” then that category includes all forms of covered material within a Material Type.
 - If a Material Form includes the term “**Other**,” then that category includes all forms of a Material Type that do not belong in any other specific category for a form of that Material Type. Innovations that constitute new forms would fall within “Other Forms” categories.

For a more detailed description of CMCs, in addition to guidance on how to categorize covered material into specific CMCs, refer to the most recent CMC Producer Reporting guidance document found on CalRecycle’s Covered Material Categories List webpage.

The **fifth column** lists recyclability determinations. An indication of yes (Y) means that, based on available data and current assumptions, CalRecycle considers a category to be recyclable for purposes of PRC section 42061(c). In its evaluation, CalRecycle considered information on jurisdiction recycling program collection and the sorting behaviors of large volume transfer/processing facilities in California. This evaluation does not address the destination or ultimate disposition of materials sorted and sold by large volume transfer/processing facilities. Nor does this evaluation consider PRC Sections 42355.51(d)(3) through (d)(6), which apply only to specific products, not categories of materials. Recyclability determinations rely on findings described in the SB 343 Material Characterization Study Revised Preliminary Findings Report. For further information concerning SB 343 (Allen, Chapter 507, Statutes of 2021), visit CalRecycle’s webpage.

The **sixth column** lists compostability determinations. For individual covered material items to satisfy the compostability-related criterion of PRC section 42050(b), they must satisfy the requirements for labeling them “compostable” to be lawful. Most of those requirements, however, necessarily apply on item-by-item basis only, whereas the CMC list only concerns covered material on a category-by-category basis. Accordingly, an indication of yes (Y) means that, based on available data and current assumptions, CalRecycle considers a category to be compostable for purposes of PRC section 42061(d) because it encompasses materials that could satisfy the requirements of PRC Section 42357(g)(1)(B), which contains the only criterion within section 42357 that applies on a category-by-category basis: that the eligible to be labeled “compostable” materials are allowable agricultural organic inputs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Program (NOP). To be such an input, (1) paper materials must be newspaper or other recycled paper such as cardboard and must not have glossy coatings or colored inks, (2) woody material must be untreated wood (or other organic materials) without any added synthetic substances, and (3) fiber materials must not have any added synthetic substances. These restrictions are a matter of federal law and cannot be changed by CalRecycle. Visit NOP website for the most up-to-date information. This evaluation does not consider PRC 42357(g)(1)(C) through (E), which apply to specific products, not categories of materials.

On June 11, 2025, the Director granted an extension for products containing synthetic substances pursuant to PRC 42357(g)(1)(B)(i) and (ii). This extension granted till June 30, 2027, delays the restriction imposed by PRC 42357(g)(1)(B) for products that satisfy all requirements for lawfully being labeled “compostable” other than the NOP-related requirement described in the previous paragraph. Accordingly, several CMCs with a plastic component have been deemed compostable as those CMCs may encompass materials with components that are made of plastics designed for compostability. For example, 25_PF1P-Paper and Fiber-Kraft Paper- All Forms w/plastic component was deemed compostable for this update as this CMC may contain Kraft paper covered material in which the plastic component(s) is made of plastic designed for compostability.

The **seventh column** lists recycling rates. The recycling rate is estimated as the percentage of covered material recycled in a year divided by the amount recycled and disposed. The amount recycled does not consider whether material reaches responsible end markets given that responsible end markets have not yet been identified for the purposes of the Act. The amount disposed is estimated as the amount of covered material sent to landfills, transformation, and Engineered Municipal Solid Waste (EMSW) conversion in California. Using the best available data for the calendar year 2024, recycling rates were jointly estimated for groupings of CMCs. Each CMC within that grouping is estimated to have the same recycling rate. For example, all CMCs within the Ceramic Material class were estimated together because data was only available at the group level. For more information on the methodology, assumptions, and data sources used to estimate the recycling rates, see the Statewide Needs Assessment Report.

For more information about the Act, including the latest information on the development of regulations, visit the [SB 54 webpage](#) and sign up for the SB 54 [listserv](#), which will keep you updated on any new information.

Table 1. Covered Material Category List (As of January 1, 2026)

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5,6,7}
25_G1N	Glass	Glass	Bottles and Jars w/o plastic component	Y		65%
25_G1P	Glass	Glass	Bottle and Jars w/ plastic component	Y		
25_G2N	Glass	Glass	Other Forms w/o plastic component			
25_G2P	Glass	Glass	Other Forms w/ plastic component			
25_G3N	Glass	Glass	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/o plastic component	Y		
25_G3P	Glass	Glass	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component	Y		
25_C1N	Ceramic	Ceramic	All Forms w/o plastic component			0%
25_C1P	Ceramic	Ceramic	All Forms w/ plastic component			
25_C2N	Ceramic	Ceramic	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/o plastic component			Insufficient Information
25_C2P	Ceramic	Ceramic	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component			

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 6 7}
25_M1N	Metal	Aluminum	Non-aerosol container w/o plastic component	Y		<39%
25_M1P	Metal	Aluminum	Non-aerosol container w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M4P	Metal	Aluminum	Aerosol can w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M2N	Metal	Aluminum	Foil sheets w/o a plastic component	Y		<9%
25_M2P	Metal	Aluminum	Foil sheets w/ a plastic component	Y		
25_M3N	Metal	Aluminum	Foil Molded Containers w/o plastic component	Y		
25_M3P	Metal	Aluminum	Foil Molded Containers w/ plastic component	Y		<45%
25_M5N	Metal	Aluminum	Other Forms w/o plastic component	Y		
25_M5P	Metal	Aluminum	Other Forms w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M6N	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Non-aerosol container w/o plastic component	Y		<45%
25_M6P	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Non-aerosol container w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M7P	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Aerosol can w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M8N	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Other Forms w/o plastic component	Y		
25_M8P	Metal	Tin/Steel/Bimetal	Other Forms w/ plastic component	Y		

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 6 7}
25_M9N	Metal	Other Nonferrous	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y		Insufficient Information
25_M9P	Metal	Other Nonferrous	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M10N	Metal	Other Ferrous	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y		25%
25_M10P	Metal	Other Ferrous	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y		
25_M12N	Metal	Metal	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/o plastic component	Y		Insufficient Information
25_M12P	Metal	Metal	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component			
25_PF1N	Paper and Fiber	Kraft Paper	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y	Y	30%
25_PF1P	Paper and Fiber	Kraft Paper	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y	Y*	
25_PF14_P	Paper and Fiber	Molded Fiber	All Forms w/ plastic component		Y*	7%
25_PF14_N	Paper and Fiber	Molded Fiber	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y	Y	
25_PF15_P	Paper and Fiber	Multi-Material Laminate	Aseptic Cartons			<1%
25_PF5P	Paper and Fiber	Multi-Material Laminate	Gable-top Cartons			<1%
25_PF17_P*	Paper and Fiber	Multi-Material Laminate	Paperboard with a Plastic Coating/Lining		Y*	<6%
25_PF7P	Paper and Fiber	Multi-Material Laminate	Other Forms w/ plastic component		Y*	

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 6 7}
25_PF8N	Paper and Fiber	OCC	Waxed Cardboard w/o plastic component		Y	0%
25_PF8P	Paper and Fiber	OCC	Waxed Cardboard w/ plastic component			
25_PF9N	Paper and Fiber	OCC	Cardboard w/o plastic component	Y	Y	68%
25_PF9P	Paper and Fiber	OCC	Cardboard w/ plastic component	Y		
25_PF10_N	Paper and Fiber	Paperboard	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y	Y	30%
25_PF10_P	Paper and Fiber	Paperboard	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y	Y*	
25_PF11_N	Paper and Fiber	White Paper	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y	Y	71%
25_PF11_P	Paper and Fiber	White Paper	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y	Y*	
25_PF12_N	Paper and Fiber	Other/Mixed Paper	All Forms w/o plastic component	Y	Y	71%
25_PF12_P	Paper and Fiber	Other/Mixed Paper	All Forms w/ plastic component	Y	Y*	
25_PF16_N	Paper and Fiber	Paper and Fiber	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/o plastic component		Y	Insufficient Information
25_PF16_P	Paper and Fiber	Paper and Fiber	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component		Y*	
25_P1P	Plastic	PET (#1)	Bottles, Jugs, and Jars (Clear/Natural)	Y		16%
25_P2P	Plastic	PET (#1)	Bottles, Jugs, and Jars (Pigmented/Color)	Y		5%

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 6 7}
25_P38P	Plastic	PET (#1)	Other Rigid Containers, Cups, Lids, Plates, Trays, Tubs	Y		4%
25_P39P	Plastic	PET (#1)	Other Rigid Items	Y		
25_P5P	Plastic	PET (#1)	Flexible and Film Items			Insufficient Information
25_P6P	Plastic	HDPE (#2)	Bottles, Jugs and Jars (Clear/Natural)	Y		19%
25_P7P	Plastic	HDPE (#2)	Bottles, Jugs and Jars (Pigmented/Color)	Y		
25_P8P	Plastic	HDPE (#2)	Pails & Buckets	Y		0%
25_P40P	Plastic	HDPE (#2)	Other Rigid Items	Y		<23%
25_P10P	Plastic	HDPE (#2)	Flexible and Film Items			5%
25_P11P	Plastic	PVC (#3)	Rigid Items			Insufficient Information
25_P12P	Plastic	PVC (#3)	Flexible and Film Items			
25_P13P	Plastic	LDPE (#4)	Bottles, Jugs and Jars			Insufficient Information
25_P14P	Plastic	LDPE (#4)	Other Rigid Items			0%
25_P15P	Plastic	LDPE (#4)	Clear Non-Bag Film			5%
25_P16P	Plastic	LDPE (#4)	Other Flexible and Film Items			
25_P17P	Plastic	PP (#5)	Bottles, Jugs and Jars	Y		2%
25_P41P	Plastic	PP (#5)	Other Rigid Containers, Cups, Lids, Plates, Trays, Tubs	Y		
25_P20P	Plastic	PP (#5)	Other Rigid Items	Y		

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 6 7}
25_P19P	Plastic	PP (#5)	Utensils			Insufficient Information
25_P21P	Plastic	PP (#5)	Clear Non-Bag Film			Insufficient Information
25_P22P	Plastic	PP (#5)	Other Flexible and Film Items			
25_P23P	Plastic	PS (#6)	Expanded/Foamed Hinged Containers, Plates, Cups, Tubs, Trays, and Other Foamed Containers			<1%
25_P42P	Plastic	PS (#6)	Other Expanded/Foamed Forms			
25_P27P	Plastic	PS (#6)	Utensils			<1%
25_P43P	Plastic	PS (#6)	Solid Hinged Containers, Plates, Cups, Tubs, Trays, and Other Solid Forms			<2%
25_P29P	Plastic	PS (#6)	Flexible and Film Items			Insufficient Information
25_P44P	Plastic	Plastics and Polymers Designed for Compostability	Rigid Items		Y*	18%
25_P45P	Plastic	Plastics and Polymers Designed for Compostability	Flexible and Film Items		Y*	4%
25_P46P	Plastic	Multi-Material Laminate	Pouches and Envelopes			<2%
25_P33P	Plastic	Multi-Material Laminate	Other Forms			

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 6 7}
25_P34P	Plastic	Other/Mixed Plastics	Textiles			<33%
25_P35P	Plastic	Other/Mixed Plastics	Rigid Items			<3%
25_P36P	Plastic	Other/Mixed Plastics	Flexible and Film Items			Insufficient Information
25_P47P	Plastic	Plastic	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less			Insufficient Information
25_WO1N	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Wood	All Untreated Forms w/o plastic component		Y	Insufficient Information
25_WO1P	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Wood	All Untreated Forms w/ plastic component			
25_WO2N	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Wood	All Treated or Painted Forms w/o plastic component			
25_WO2P	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Wood	All Treated or Painted Forms w/ plastic component			
25_WO3N	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Other/Mixed Organic	Textiles w/o plastic component			
25_WO3P	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Other/Mixed Organic	Textiles w/ plastic component			
25_WO4N	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Other/Mixed Organic	Other Forms w/o plastic component		Y	

Category ID	Material Class ¹	Material Type ¹	Form ^{2,3}	Recyclable ⁴	Compostable ⁴	Recycling Rate ^{5 6 7}
25_WO4P	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Other/Mixed Organic	Other Forms w/ plastic component			Insufficient Information
25_WO6N	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/o plastic component		Y	
25_WO6P	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Wood and Other Organic Materials	Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less w/ plastic component			

Footnotes:

¹For items composed of multiple materials, “Material Class” and “Material Type” refer to the material constituting the greatest percentage of an item’s weight.

² Small – Two or more sides measuring 2" or less refers to dimensions, such as length, width, or height. *For flexible items*, this is measured when the item is laid flat in a relaxed state. If the side being measured is *circular*, the diameter is the appropriate measurement.

³Forms indicating “with a plastic component” refer to items that contain plastic but for which plastic is not the material constituting the greatest percentage of the item’s weight.

⁴Inclusion on this list reflects category-based evaluations of recyclability and compostability and does not constitute a product-specific determination of recyclability or compostability.

⁵Values shown as “less than” or “<#%” indicates that limited end market information is currently available, and the recycling rate estimate is instead based on available processor outflow data. Values shown as a percentage, without any other modifiers, are based on information regarding the amount of a given covered material category, or group of covered material categories, that is sent to end. The methodology for the recycling rate calculation is presented in the Statewide Needs Assessment Report.

⁶Merged rows indicate that information is available for the merged group of covered material categories, and is insufficient to determine a specific recycling rate for the individual covered material categories within the group.

⁷Insufficient Information indicates that there is currently insufficient data on the amount of this covered material category that is sent to end markets. Specific information regarding the recycling or processing of small format categories is not available.

* A compostable determination for these CMCs does not imply that all covered material within the CMC is compostable, but signifies that covered material within the CMC is not disqualified from being eligible to be labeled compostable due to not meeting the National Organic Program requirements

Abbreviations and Acronym List

CalRecycle: California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

CMC: Covered Material Category

HDPE: High-Density Polyethylene

LDPE: Low-Density Polyethylene

OCC: Old Corrugated Cardboard

PET: Polyethylene Terephthalate

PP: Polypropylene

PRC: Public Resources Code (California Statute)

PS: Polystyrene

PVC: Polyvinyl Chloride