



Van Oordt
THE PORTION COMPANY

Single-use plastic

**Always bringing a little extra
For a sustainable future**

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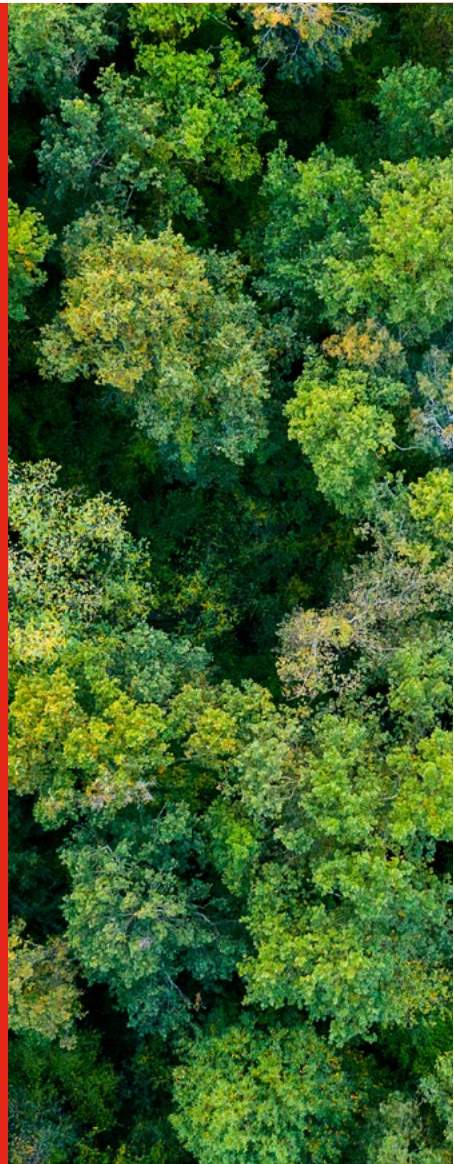
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Plastic soup

Litter on land

Research has shown that over nine billion tonnes of plastic have been manufactured to date. Under 25% of this volume has been either incinerated or recycled. This implies that some 75% either ends up in landfill sites or remains scattered around in nature. The problem of litter is a complex one. A stray banana peel remains on the street for a year. A chewed piece of gum on the other hand takes twenty years to decompose. And a plastic bottle never does. Gaining the appropriate knowledge about litter is therefore the first step towards a solution. Not only knowledge regarding degradation times and litter prevention, but also about successful collaborations, new legislation and education.

Litter in our seas

An estimated 3% of plastic manufactured worldwide ends up in the sea. It breaks down and crumbles into small particles. Some of it floats, some sinks, and a portion remains suspended in the water column, which is the segment between the seabed and the surface. The area of plastic soup in the Pacific Ocean measures around 1.6 million square metres, while some eight million tonnes of plastic is added annually.

Plastic has a devastating impact on humankind and the environment alike. One of the most harmful types is oxo-degradable plastic. This is due to the fact it is made of material that breaks down into miniscule microparticles, which spread throughout the seas. This enables these toxins enter the food chain. A 40% increase in plastic production is forecast in the coming decade, which implies that increasing amounts of this type of plastic will also end up in the chain. If we fail to take action to combat plastic soup therefore, our seas will inevitably contain more plastic than fish by the year 2050.



Measures to reduce Single-use plastic (SUP)

Drinking straws, PET bottles and plastic cups are all examples of disposable plastic that ends up littering nature or our seas. In an effort to combat such littering, the European Union has taken steps to greatly reduce single-use plastic. Check out the measures applicable pursuant to the EU's Directive on single-use plastics (SUP) below.

Measures as of 2019

In May 2019, the European Parliament approved a ban on single-use plastic products for which there are a range of plastic-free alternatives. The measure that came into force on 3 July 2021 concerns mainly products made of oxo-degradable plastic, such as disposable plates, cutlery and stirrers, and expanded polystyrene (EPS). The ban on marketing such products from that date onwards permits solely the sale of existing stock.

From 1 July 2021 furthermore, producers are obliged to collect at least 90% of all PET bottles with capacities up to three litres for recycling. This implies that no longer only large bottles, but also small plastic bottles are subject to a deposit (€0.15 each in the Netherlands). Since 3 July 2021, the packaging of certain products including filter cigarettes, beverage cups and sanitary towels have to bear a warning, indicating that they contain plastic and should therefore be disposed of in the appropriate bin to prevent environmental pollution.

Measures as of 2022

From January 2022, fishermen are legally obliged to recover a minimum of 23% of their equipment, which figure is also to be increased by 3% annually.

Measures as of 2023

On 5 January 2023, regulation came into force whereby producers have pay the costs of litter disposal. This levy, as known as a SUP surcharge, amounts to €2.30 per 1,000 items in the Netherlands.

Furthermore, producers are obliged to provide consumers with information on how to prevent littering. This extended responsibility is placed on the first party to market the item as packaging. Producers are also obliged to report annually to the responsible ministry how many single-use plastic items they have sold or dispensed.

From 1 July 2023, besides the producers, consumers have to pay for disposable plastic cups and food packaging whenever they order food or drinks to take away. This measure also applies to packaging in retail from which food or beverages can be consumed directly. Suppliers are now also obliged to offer plastic-free alternatives.

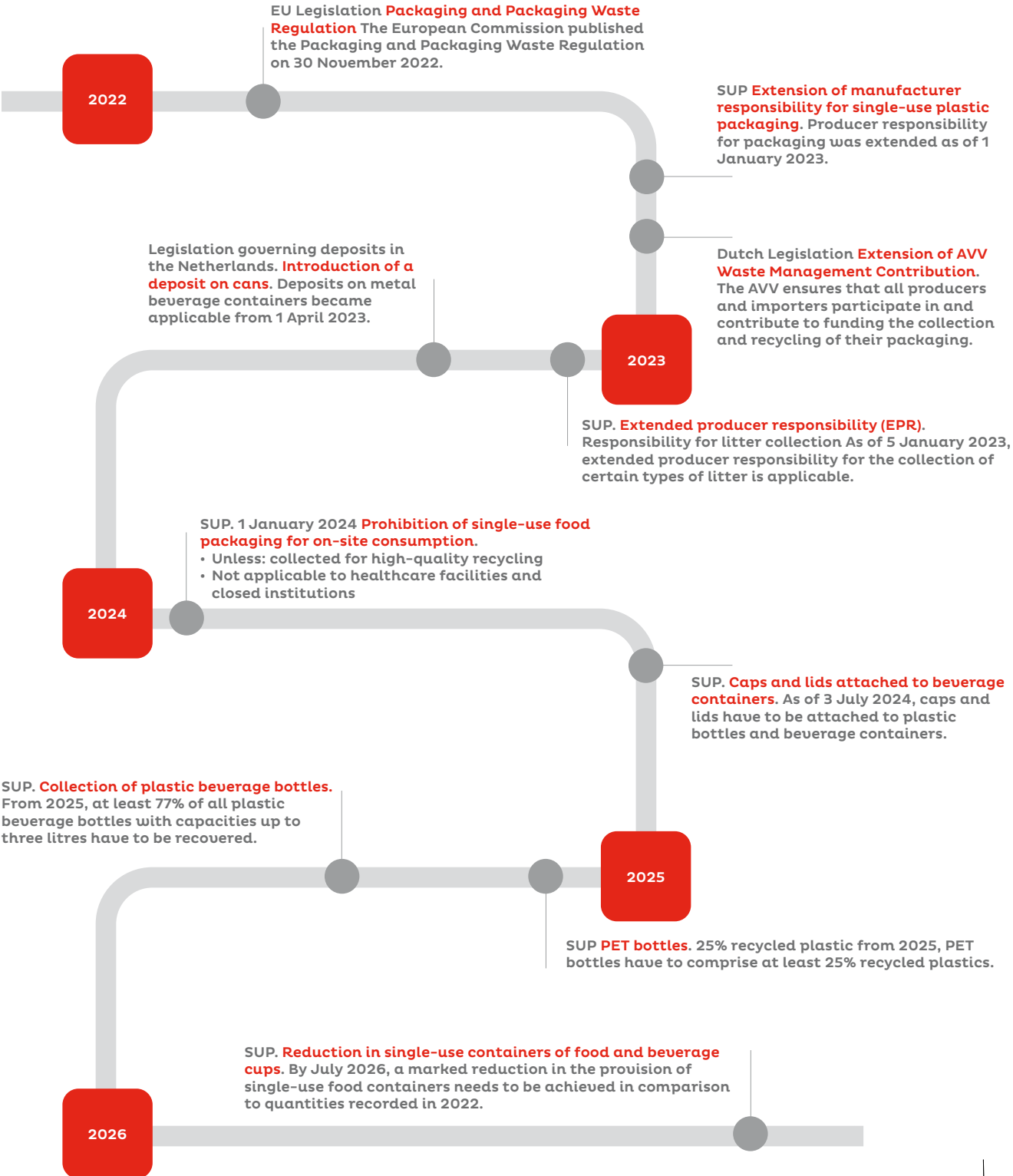
Measures as of 2024

From 1 January 2024, entrepreneurs are no longer permitted to use preformed disposable plastic cups and food packaging in catering establishments, at events and in offices. Reuse is to become the new standard in this regard. It is therefore now prohibited to sell or provide such plastic or plastic-containing items for food products consumed on site. Offering high-quality recyclable alternatives is permitted, however.

From 3 July 2024, caps have to remain attached to plastic bottles and beverage containers. The aim of this measure is to ensure that both bottles and caps are readily returned for recycling.

A regulation comes into force in 2025, which requires that PET bottles comprise at least 25% recycled plastic. The percentage applicable is to be raised to at least 30 after five years, in 2030. Furthermore, all drinks and beverage bottles with capacities up to three litres will then have to be collected.

SUP measures timeline



Application in practice

Transfer of issue of single-use plastic

From 1 January 2023, an alteration in the application of the definition of 'Producer or Importer' of single-use plastic is applicable in the Netherlands. This change was implemented on the intercession of the Ministry of Infrastructure & Water Management, to bring it in line with the definition in the legislation. The alteration affects organisations that commission a third party in a professional capacity to apply their brand, logo or mark to the packaging of products. Generally speaking, the obligation to contribute is transferred from the contractor to the principal for the production of a product bearing a mark that does not belong to the producer. Examples include a brand, trademark or private label.

Single-use plastic products regulation

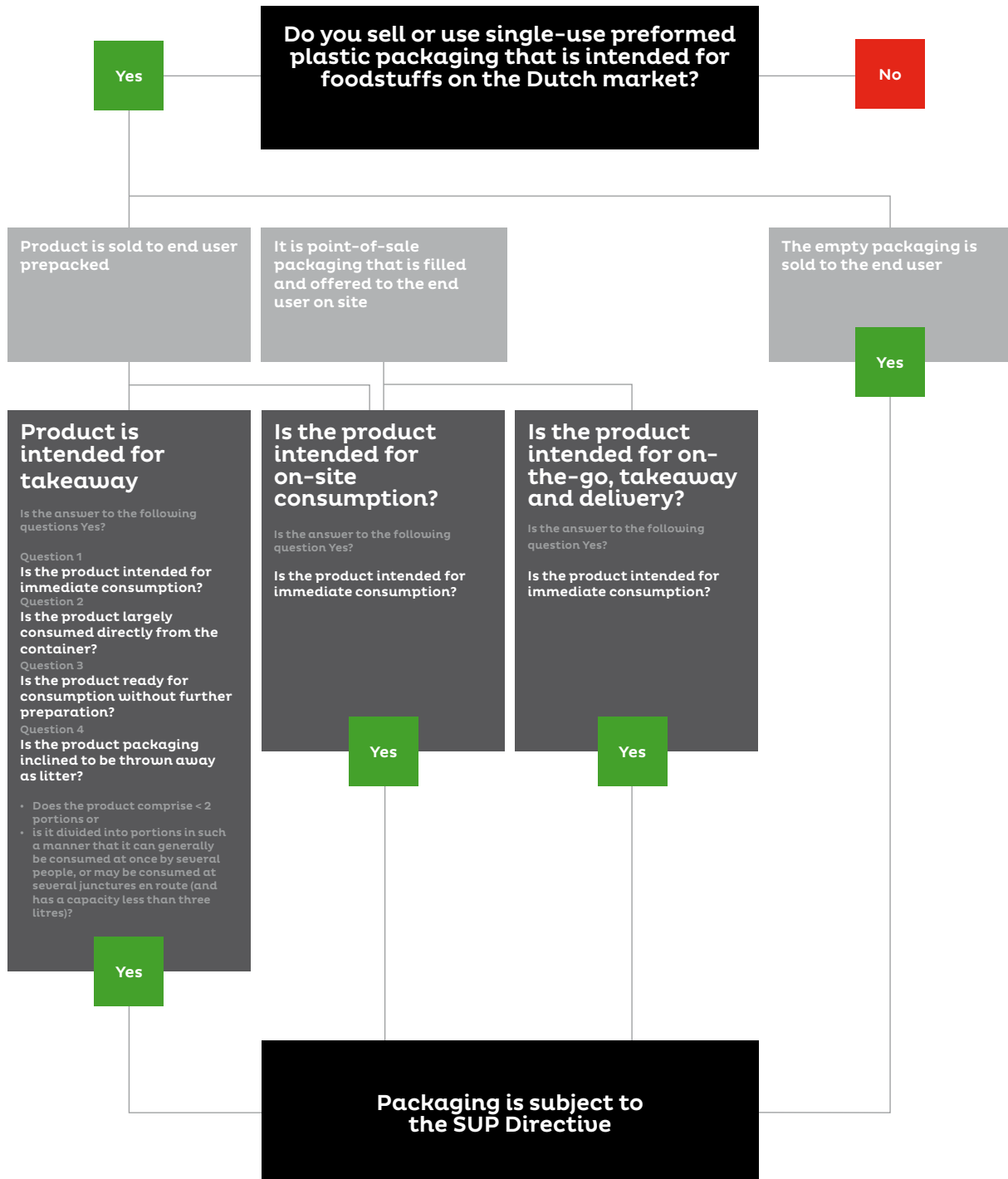
In which cases does the consumer have to pay a surcharge at the checkout? This is the case when the business operator offers plastic drinking cups or plastic food packaging for single use to the end user. In the event that the beverage or food is to be consumed beyond the site where it is issued, a surcharge has to be levied over and above the price of the food or beverage itself. This charge has to be indicated per unit of sale on the receipt. For example, a milkshake is a single unit of sale ordered and paid for by a customer. While said milkshake may be packaged in multiple SUP units, it remains a single unit of sale. The following are non-binding recommended surcharges for a beverage or food:

- €0.25 for a cup
- €0.50 for a meal (this may comprise multiple containers and packaging)
- €0.05 for packaging of pre-packed fruit, vegetables and nuts and small portion packs.



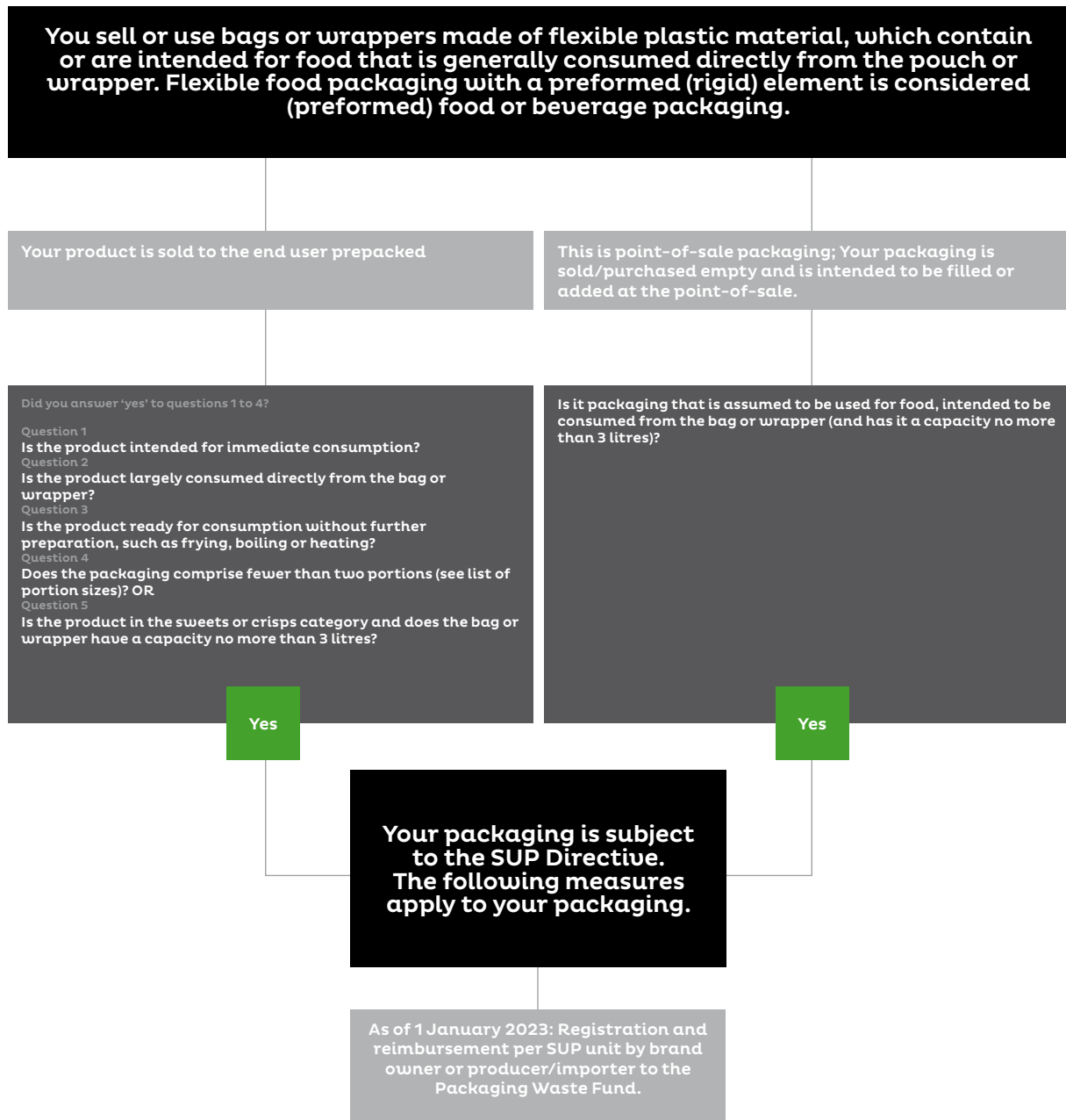
Preformed food packaging decision tree

In contrast to flexible packaging, preformed packaging cannot be easily screwed up into a ball.



Bags and wrappers decision tree

Bags and wrappers made of flexible plastic can be readily screwed up into a ball.



Alternative materials

According to the SUP measures, it is essential to choose environmentally friendly alternatives. Factors such as durability, quality, functionality and price play a vital role in this regard. Several materials are suitable as alternatives.

Paper & cardboard

Paper and cardboard are sustainable alternatives to plastic. These sturdy materials have an eco-friendly image and are easy to recycle. Given the increasing demand for paper, the price of this material is bound to rise in the future. It is advisable to opt for one of the following alternatives if the food item has a short BBE, the use of renewable raw materials is essential and the item requires a sustainable appearance.

Kaolin coated cardboard

Kaolin is a white clay composed of hydrated aluminium silicate, also known as kaolinite. Produced in China, this white, friable, refractory clay is an ideal alternative to plastic. The material is biodegradable and compostable.

Wood

Wood is biodegradable and compostable. The price of this material is also expected to rise, however. Similarly to paper and cardboard, this material is suitable if the use of renewable raw materials is essential and the item requires a sustainable appearance.

Bamboo

Bamboo grows and recovers more quickly than other alternative materials. It is biodegradable and can be composted. Furthermore, bamboo is a low-cost material. It is a convenient replacement for plastic straws, plates and cups.

Palm leaves

Similarly to bamboo, palm leaves are fully biodegradable and compostable. The leaves are collected and cleaned with water under high pressure. They are subsequently moulded into products by means of heat treatment. A convenient replacement for items including plastic flatware. Ideal for food products that are consumed on site.

PLA

PLA stands for polylactic acid, which is an organic alternative to plastic. It is made from corn starch, wheat and sugar cane. In comparison to plastic, 60% less CO₂ is emitted during the production of PLA. The material is suitable for the packaging of food between 0 and 40°C. Moreover, PLA lends cups, trays and similar items a more luxurious appearance.

CPLA

CPLA is suitable for the packaging of food up to 85°C. It is basically PLA that is treated with chalk or lime to render it more resistant to hot products.

Sugarcane bagasse

Sugarcane bagasse is an excellent material for the packaging of both hot and cold food products. It is basically made from a by-product of the cane sugar production process. The by-product is shredded and cleaned to manufacture bagasse fibres. This 100% biodegradable material is used in the production of various items.

Mono-plastic laminate

Certain products require occlusive properties to adequately protect their contents. Previously, laminate packaging comprised several grades of material in order to guarantee this occlusion. Mixed grades are not recyclable, however. The choice of material is therefore vital in rendering plastic packaging suitably recyclable. The purer the material, the more recyclable it is. The best means of ensuring this is to use a single type of material: mono-material. This is a fantastic alternative, particularly now that mono-material can also be used to produce flexible packaging: all the advantages of traditional flexible packaging and fully recyclable, too!

Van Oordt policy on packaging

While we endeavour to stimulate entrepreneurship throughout our chain, we are also keen to contribute toward the well-being of people, society and our planet.

With a view to adopting the most complete definition of sustainability possible, Van Oordt therefore applies the 4P approach, which comprises the following:



Planet

Van Oordt promotes healthy ecosystems by restoring biodiversity, to such an extent that we remain a climate-positive, waste & wastage-free organisation.



People

Throughout the chain, Van Oordt enables families to thrive in a safe environment, where everyone has the opportunity to develop their particular talents.



Participation

In its pursuit of sustainability, Van Oordt plays an exemplary role in the sector and occupies a pivotal position in our own society, too.



Profit

Van Oordt's particular form of sustainable entrepreneurship promotes long-term earning models in honest business chains.



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