

Price Comparisons: Traditional v. More Eco-Friendly Products

Single-Use Food Service Ware: For a meal that uses a fork, a knife, a spoon, a plate, a bowl, a cup and a napkin, the most eco-friendly set (in green) costs **5 cents** more than the traditional set (first rows).

forks/spoons/knives (not bendy)			
Store	Brand	¢/piece	
Costco	Solo	2	plastic
Costco.com	Eco Kloud	5	Compostable
Smart & Final	Trellis Sustainable	5	Biodegradable

paper plates (not paper-thin)			
Store	Brand	¢/plate	
Costco	Dixie - 10"	10	prints – ink contains metals or other substances not good for biodegradability coated – plastic
Costco.com	Eco Kloud – 10" Eco Kloud – 9"	12 8	Sugar cane – renewable, tree free Compostable
Smart & Final	Sun Harvest – 9"	12	No print No coating

paper bowls 12oz			
Store	Brand	¢/bowl	
Costco	Dixie	6	prints – ink contains metals or other substances not good for biodegradability coated – plastic
Costco.com	Eco Kloud	6	Sugar cane – renewable, tree free Compostable No print No coating

paper cups for hot and cold 12oz			
Store	Brand	¢/cup	
Costco	Dixie	11	
Costco.com	Eco Kloud	9	Compostable

paper napkins			
Store	Brand	¢/sheet	
Costco	Kirkland	1	
Costco.com	Marcel	1	100% recycled
Smart & Final	Sun Harvest	1	100% recycled 80% post-consumer recycled
Trader Joe's	Trader Joe's	2	
Sprouts	Sprouts	1	

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Other Items

paper towels			
Store	Brand	¢/sheet	
Costco	Kirkland	1	
Costco.com	Seventh Generation	2	100% recycled 50% post-consumer recycled
Smart & Final	Sun Harvest	1	100% recycled
Trader Joe's	Trader Joe's	2	80% post-consumer recycled
Sprouts	Sprouts	2	100% recycled 80% post-consumer recycled Unbleached/brown

toilet paper			
Store	Brand	¢/sheet	
Costco	Kirkland	0.2	
Costco.com	Seventh Generation	0.3	100% recycled 50% post-consumer recycled
Smart & Final	Sun Harvest	0.2	100% recycled
Trader Joe's	Trader Joe's	0.2	80% post-consumer recycled
Sprouts	Sprouts	0.2	100% recycled 80% post-consumer recycled Paper wrap, no plastic

others			
Store	Brand		
Costco	Kirkland	Dish soap	Biodegradable
Trader Joe's	Trader Joe's		
Costco	Kirkland (green bottle)	Laundry detergent	
Trader Joe's	Trader Joe's	Dishwasher detergent	Biodegradable Paper box
Sprouts	a variety	Hand soap	Biodegradable Post-consumer recycled bottles Fair trade
Amazon.com	a variety	Trash bags	Biodegradable or compostable

Products compared:

- Traditional: the cheapest (may be the biggest pack), not sale prices.
- Eco-friendly: the most eco-friendly option at each store, not sale prices, online prices include shipping.
- Styrofoam is not considered because it's banned in many cities.

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Good Features	
Plastic free Biodegradable Compostable Non GMO	Plant based, not fossil fuel. No chemicals or other ingredients to damage the soil or ocean (down from the drain). Compostable is better than biodegradable.
Tree free	Renewable materials: plant fiber, sugar cane, wheat straw, etc. Paper products from trees contribute to deforestation: <i>“Mostly plundered by lumbering or oil and gas exploration. Scientists recently found that in less than a century, there could be no wilderness left—nowhere for untouched evolution or natural carbon storage, or human escape.”</i> http://time.com/4527296/2016-election-other-issues/
Post-consumer recycled	True recycling, from our recycle bins. Pre-consumer recycled is “reuse” leftover from other productions.
Fair trade	Fair trade certification covers a number of things, including sustainability, no middleman, no child/slave labor. The invisible part to consumers is where the ingredients are from. For example, Swiss chocolate has sugar and cocoa from third world countries, where labor and environment are treated differently, possibly unethically.

FAQs	
Plastic or paper	Plastic is a fossil fuel product, not biodegradable, contains toxic chemicals. Some recyclers no longer take plastic. <i>“Cheap oil has compelled plastics manufacturers to use more virgin material made directly from petroleum instead of recycled plastic”</i> http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/green-life/hey-mr-green-why-are-some-recyclers-no-longer-taking-plastic
Disposable or reusable	Every new item, to say the least, from production to shipping, generates lots of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. Disposable items, typically a quick use, have permanent environmental impact. Much of the stuff is recyclable. In practice, due to a variety of reason, much cannot be recycled. The biggest FAQ about reusable is washing. Technology has helped us get creative with waste water, for landscape and other purposes. Another FAQ is cost. Buy used helps. For example, silverware at Salvation Army is \$1 for 8.

Recent news on environment and humanity:

“In September the atmospheric concentration of CO2 permanently passed the 400 parts per million threshold—a problem, considering many scientists now believe the level needs to be at 350 ppm to avoid catastrophic climate change.” <http://time.com/4574484/trumps-presidency-end-livable-climate/>

“The U.N. Environment Program said the world needs to slash its annual greenhouse gas emissions. ‘The growing numbers of climate refugees hit by hunger, poverty, illness and conflict will be a constant reminder of our failure to deliver.’” <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/climate-404384-ocprint-greenhouse-efforts.html>