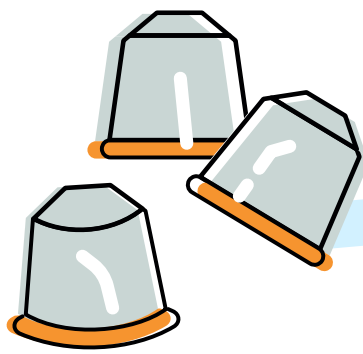




Decision tree for coffee capsules

* See our Sustainability Ratings Chart and Standard Operating Procedure Booklet to make a more informed decision.

Single-use plastic/
aluminium coffee capsules
are provided on site.

No

Yes


This eliminates
unnecessary
waste
completely.

Are you considering using coffee capsule machines in the future?

No

Yes

Could single-use plastic/aluminium capsules be replaced with coffee provided in alternative single-use packaging?

No

Yes

Do public or private facilities exist to collect single use plastic/aluminium coffee capsules for recycling?

Yes

No

Replace single-use plastic/
aluminium capsules with better
rated alternative.*

Continue to minimize waste by only providing
single-use plastic/aluminium coffee capsules
when absolutely necessary.

Could single-use capsules be replaced with a different style of service e.g. a cafetiere (guest rooms), coffee menu served to order (F&B outlets) if the coffee met quality standards?

No

Yes

Replace single-use capsule with
better rated alternative.*
That significantly reduces unnecessary
plastic/aluminium waste.

Remember,
don't throw coffee
grounds away, they are
excellent for compost-
ing. Ensure any other
coffee packaging is
separated and respon-
sibly disposed of.

Create procedures to ensure that single-use plastic/aluminium coffee capsules are separated for recycling. Check with your waste disposal contractor to make sure that recycling actually takes place.

WASTE

HOW TO DISPOSE OF

Plastic capsules with recycled content	→	Remove coffee grounds and separate for collection with plastic recycling.
Capsules made of bio-based materials	→	Separate for specialist collection at an industrial facility if facility exists. If facilities do not exist, avoid these materials. If you must use them, dispose of with general waste. Do NOT home compost!
Coffee bags composed of paper with aluminium foil	→	Separate for collection with plastic (aluminium) and paper recycling.
Paper sachets	→	Separate for collection with paper recycling.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Many capsules are made from aluminium which is extremely resource intensive to extract.
- Even if capsules are disposed of with aluminium recycling, they are so small, they often fall through the cracks in recycling facilities and end up in landfill or being incinerated.
- If capsules were captured at recycling plants, they would need to be washed to remove coffee residue before they could be recycled.
- Coffee bags composed of multiple materials (e.g. paper with aluminium foil) makes the recovery process of these containers difficult.
- Paper sachets lined with foil are often used to package loose coffee or coffee bags (similar to a teabag) in order to keep the coffee fresh and maintain the flavour profile.
- Similar to the capsules, sachets are so small that even if they can be processed at waste management facilities they often fall through the cracks and also end up in landfill or being incinerated.