Can our Costa Coffee cups be recycled?

Here’s the anatomy of our iconic takeaway cup

Why aren’t enough cups being recycled?

No wax coating

The ‘O’ is where most people put their thumb.

We have now raised this so that it’s cooler to touch (no ‘double-cupping’)

Plastic film is on the inside only, allowing for easier separation of materials during recycling

No sleeve

Recyclable paper (sustainably sourced)

Recyclable plastic (so that it doesn’t leak)

95% 5%

Of the coffees we sell, only 4/10 are in paper cups

It’s complicated...

For a start it’s really hard to say how many cups are being recycled. Once they leave our stores, we don’t know where they go.

What do we know?

There are two facilities in the UK asking coffee shops for paper cups.

Sticky cups are also being recycled elsewhere but this completely depends on the recycling facilities where you live. It’s something of a lottery.

Until we are satisfied that more of our takeaway cups are being recycled we have removed the recyclable symbol from our cups. It will be replaced with the Tidyman symbol to encourage customers not to litter.

How are we reducing the amount of cups going to waste?

1. We encourage customers to bring in their own cups

Bring your own cup and we will donate 25p to...

2. We recycle in our head offices and are trialling cup recycling in 50 stores

We are investing £100,000 with Sheffield University on cup recycling research

In partnership, we will also run a trial with the help of volunteers to see how many cups are recycled. We hope that this will be a useful tool to help you to help the environment.

3. We are working with the wider industry to create long term, lasting change

We are working with the wider industry and the Paper Cup Manifesto to become a Board Member of the Paper Cup and Recycling Recovery Group.

For more information, please visit costa.co.uk/responsibility/our-cups