

# HOW DO WE REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

A LOOK AT HOW WE  
REDUCE SINGLE-USE  
PLASTICS

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DETPAK

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**Detpak**

## Summary

Detpak is a packaging manufacturer, specialising in sustainable paper and board packaging. Locally, we form part of the Mpact Group as one of the leading paper and plastics packaging manufacturing businesses in southern Africa as well as the leading recycler of recovered paper and plastics. Mpact is recognised as an industry leader in sustainability, winning the 2018 Certificate of Excellence award in the Sustainability Category.

Our roots are with the Detmold company, a global packaging manufacturer operating over 70 years, employing over 3,000 people with over 20 sales office globally.

We work closely and collaboratively with industry bodies such as PETCO and PAMSA. We are uniquely positioned to support a move away from single use plastics with our global exposure to sustainable packaging solutions, our relationships with thousands of foodservice, grocery and retail brands, and our genuine commitment reducing the impact on our environment and marine life through the elimination of unnecessary single-use plastics.

We believe local business' support forms a crucial part of reducing single-use plastics, with support for all single-use carry bags, cups, straws, plates and grocery bags to be recyclable. By taking a strong stance on recycling and working with the many organisations who want to create a better future, we believe that together we can inspire the population in pursuit of this important goal.

Detpak believes that biodegradable, degradable and plastic compostable bags present a high risk to the environment because of microplastic residues and marine pollution. Detpak believes PLA straws, compostable plastic carry bags and grocery bags all present the same risk for marine pollution, litter and wildlife as other plastics, and therefore should not be approved alternatives. This position is explained in the Australian study 'Reducing the impacts of plastics' [i]

i] Reducing the impacts of plastics on the Victorian environment – join the discussion 2017'

## Recycling or Composting

Whilst there are some established industrial composters in the South African community these are mainly used for food waste. Composting is not established as a viable commercial solution for packaging in South Africa nor has it been adopted on a global scale.

Only through recycling do we reduce the number of trees being cut down to make paper products, and only through recycling are we 'keeping products, components and materials at their highest utility'[ii] which is fundamental to supporting the global move to a circular economy.

We strongly believe in a need to champion recycling over composting, then a compromise of allowing both recyclable and compostable solutions is a common concession, that still moves the economy somewhat forward toward its goal of becoming circular.

Detpak also supports future consideration of a bold approach that requires all retailers to accept back all used packaging that is not recyclable through other widely available streams, and that those retailers are required to ensure that this returned packaging is disposed of appropriately.

We are proud to provide recyclable packaging options and pleased to be assisting our customers in moving toward their sustainability goals alongside a wider goal of having our products fit within a circular economy.

[ii] vGreen Industries SA 'Potential Benefits of a Circular Economy in South Australia' (2017)

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[www.detpak.co.za](http://www.detpak.co.za)