



AirFlow™ Spacers FAQ

WHAT ARE AIRFLOW SPACERS MADE FROM?

AirFlow Spacers are manufactured by Kansas-based, **Green Dot BioPlastics**, a leader in sustainable resin development. AirFlow Spacers are made with materials that meet industry standards for fully biodegradable designation, and contain a proprietary blend of starch-based ingredients and other polymers. Find out more at <https://www.greendotbioplastics.com>

WHAT DOES BIOBASED MEAN?

The term 'biobased' means that the material or product is (partly) derived from biomass (plants). Examples of biomass raw materials used in bioplastics include corn, sugarcane, cellulose, potatoes, cassava and wheat.

WHAT DOES BIOPLASTIC MEAN?

Bioplastics are not just one single material. They comprise of a whole family of materials with different properties and applications. A plastic material is defined as a bioplastic if it is biobased or biodegradable, or features both properties.

WHAT DOES BIODEGRADABLE MEAN?

Biodegradation is a chemical process during which microorganisms that are available in the environment convert materials into natural substances such as water, carbon dioxide, and compost (artificial additives are not needed). The process and rate of biodegradation depends on the surrounding environmental conditions (e.g. location and/or temperature), on the material composition and on the application.



ARE THE SPACERS BIODEGRADABLE?

AirFlow Spacers are biodegradable in soil, with an estimated biodegradation rate of 2 years. To make biodegradable claims, the FTC requires the environment be specified, with a general timeframe of where biodegradation can occur.

ARE AIRFLOW SPACERS COMPOSTABLE?

AirFlow Spacers are compostable. Similar products have passed the ASTM D6400 and EN13432 Standards for Industrial Compostability, as well as the TUV Austria Home Composting Certification and TUV Austria Soil Biodegradability Certification. TUV Austria is a third party standards verification organization based in Europe that validates compostability and biodegradability claims. For more information see: <https://www.tuv-at.be/green-marks>



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CAN I DISPOSE OF THE SPACERS IN SOIL?

AirFlow Spacers can be disposed of in soil with an estimated biodegradation rate of 2 years.

WILL AIRFLOW SPACERS LEACH TOXIC MATERIALS INTO THE SOIL?

Testing has been completed to confirm this does not occur. This evaluation, referred to as ecotoxicity testing, is part of the standards and certifications required to be certified for TUV Home Composting and Soil Biodegradability.

HOW LONG DO SPACERS TAKE TO BIODEGRADE?

Like any material or item that biodegrades, the time frame will vary depending on a variety of factors: thickness, moisture, temperature, sunlight, oxygen, and pH. Based on prior biodegradability studies of similar materials in similar thickness to AirFlow Spacers, the time for biodegradation will be 1 to 4 years.

DO THE SPACERS CONTAIN PLASTIC?

The term "plastic" generally means petrochemical polymers. The spacers do not contain conventional plastics.

WILL THE SPACERS DEGRADE INTO MICROPLASTICS?

While the Spacers will get smaller as they biodegrade, because they are fully compostable the Spacers will be broken down by the bacteria in other organisms and microplastics will not persist in the soil.

DO THE SPACERS CONTAIN PETROLEUM?

AirFlow Spacers do not contain petroleum. They are a blend of both new and old carbon derived feedstocks. New carbon comes from plants, and old carbon is derived from the chemical modification of glycerol.

WHAT ABOUT AIRFLOW SPACER PERFORMANCE WITH TEXTURED UNITS?

AirFlow Spacer dimensions will effectively separate most units, including pavers with textured surfaces up to 2 mm depth.

DO AIRFLOW SPACERS REDUCE CUBE EFFLORESCENCE?

Improved air circulation between layers can help to reduce the potential for cube efflorescence by reducing moisture movement both between layers, and moisture movement into and out of units. Moisture that would previously been trapped on the concrete surfaces can now evaporate.

For producers that use top sheets, AirFlow Spacers are also effective at improving air circulation between the top sheet and the top layer units. This separation can reduce efflorescence that can occur on the top layer when a top sheet is used.

HOW ARE THE AIRFLOW SPACERS APPLIED?

AirFlow Spacers can be dispensed through most inline granule dispensers, including sand dispensers.



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Spacers are designed not to roll, so they stay where they land during dispensing. Of course, the height and speed of application may impact dispensing efficacy. Spacers can be properly distributed by an automated dispensing system, without need for manual intervention.

Waste is minimal when dispensers are correctly set for layer dimensions, and can be further minimized with containment measures. Spacers that remain on the boards or are captured by a containment system can be reclaimed and reused, if desired.

Unlike separator sheets, spacer inline application does not require extra steps during palletizing and can be done without manual intervention, making it more efficient and safer for personnel.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

To see a video of AirFlow Spacers being dispensed, and other useful information, check out our website using the QR code below:



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