

# Vanguard™ FAQs



## What is Eco-Products' new Vanguard™ line?

The line is a groundbreaking new line of molded fiber plates and containers that are water- and grease-resistant. They are the first molded fiber products to be certified as commercially compostable by the Biodegradable Product Institute (BPI) under their new standards that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020. The entire line is microwave-friendly and effective in both hot and cold applications.

## What makes the new Vanguard line different?

The line uses a proprietary alternative chemistry to achieve grease-resistance performance without the addition of fluorinated compounds. Creating the line required extensive development and testing. Eco-Products has patents pending on the new formula.

The line uses an innovative new formula that does not require the addition of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a class of materials approved for use in food contact products by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide oil and grease resistance. Vanguard is also the product line that is GreenScreen Certified™ Silver which means that the PFAS-alternative formulation does not use other chemicals of high concern or known regrettable substitutes.

## What is regrettable substitution?

Regrettable substitution is a term used to describe when one ingredient is removed only to be replaced by another that could also be problematic.

## What is GreenScreen Certified™ Silver?

Developed by Clean Production Action (CPA) and Center for Environmental Health (CEH), the certification evaluates every chemical used in the Vanguard formulation and attests that the product does not have chemicals of high concern to human health and the environment.

## How will Vanguard products be identifiable?

Moving forward, Vanguard products will be shipped in Vanguard-branded cartons that have embossed on product. This new line is available in white and natural bagasse.

## Why are you creating a product with no PFAS?

We recognize that a number of restaurants, grocery chains, government contracts and municipalities prefer foodservice products that do not contain PFAS. As a leader in innovation in foodservice packaging, we worked hard to find a new formula that does not require the use of PFAS to meet customer needs. The line is one more way we can deliver choices to our partners that are unavailable anywhere else.

## Do Eco-Products non- molded fiber products contain PFAS?

Yes. But it's important to know that the PFAS used in products that are not part of the line of molded fiber items have been determined to be safe for food contact use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA.) We are committed to offering the best products that are both safe and help our customers be better stewards of the environment.

On July 21, 2020, the US Food and Drug Administration reached a voluntary agreement with US manufacturers of PFAS to phase out sales of certain PFAS compounds for use in food contact materials by 2024. Eco-Products will phase out all PFAS compounds from our product portfolio by Dec 31, 2023.

## How does the performance of products compare with other Eco-Products molded fiber products?

While products are grease resistant, they do not perform identically to our other molded fiber products. Our formulation is less resistant to grease than current chemistries. Over the course of days, grease will soak through our products after prolonged exposure substantially faster than the existing chemistries that provide grease resistance. After multiple trials, customers have indicated that the performance of our line is sufficient for their needs.

## Why are you not eliminating PFAS from all of your products now?

Our goal is to provide our customers with a variety of options so they can choose the product solution that works best for them. We will evaluate supply of no-added PFAS chemistries and move to use this alternative by the end of 2023. As our ability to meet market demand for our Vanguard line increases, we will begin to phase out our non-Vanguard line providing all of our products with PFAS-alternatives by Dec 31, 2023.

## Is the Vanguard line compliant with FDA requirements for food contact?

Yes. The components of the alternative chemistry used in Vanguard are FDA compliant.

## Can I customize a Vanguard product?

We welcome requests to provide custom projects with customers although availability could be longer for custom projects.

## How is BPI certification impacted by PFAS?

As of December 31, 2019, products that have more than 100 parts per million (PPM) of total fluorine, which indicates intentional use of PFAS chemistry, have lost BPI certification. Our items have been verified by a third-party laboratory to have less than 100 PPM of total fluorine, and these products have been certified as commercially compostable by BPI. As of December 31, 2019, our molded fiber products that are not part of the line are no longer BPI certified. Customers who use our conventional sugarcane items and to whom BPI certification is important, should discuss transitioning their products to with their Eco-Products rep.

## Is it true that no test exists that can differentiate long-chain PFAS from short-chain PFAS?

Some competitors have claimed that no test can determine whether PFAS is long-chain (not FDA approved) or short-chain (FDA approved). This is not true. Testing that can distinguish between the two is available, but it is more expensive and less commonly used.

## What PFAS-related legislation has been passed or is being considered?

Legislation and regulation on this topic are evolving. Certain states have passed legislation prohibiting traditional PFAS chemistry sooner than the industry's voluntary phase-out by 2024. Please contact your Eco-Products representative with questions.

## Have more questions about or PFAS?

Please contact your Eco-Products representative.