



Available in 4 sizes

What are *eco bowls* made out of?

eco bowls are made from a plastic resin substitute, called a biocomposite, which consists entirely of plant materials. 92% - 95% of an *eco bowl* is made up of plant fibers from bamboo grass and rice husks and 5% - 8% organic binding agent (glucose/amino acids).

Rice husks (or rice hulls) are the hard protective covering of grains of rice. When rice is processed for food consumption, the hull is removed and thrown away; therefore, using the husks to make a biocomposite keeps garbage out of landfills.

Bamboo grass, unlike the tall stalks that panda bears eat, is a breed of grass that grows incredibly fast and thus is a sustainable resource.

The reclaimed rice husks and the sustainable bamboo grass is ground into a powder and is then mixed with the organic binding agent and pigment for coloring. The resulting slurry is placed into a mold and formed into a pet dish.

Are *eco bowls* biodegradable/compostable?

Yes. *eco bowls* are made from 100% plant materials including amino acids that will begin to breakdown when the proper catalysts are introduced (carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, water and heat).

How long does it take for *eco bowls* to degrade?

Once they are introduced to the proper conditions, *eco bowls* will begin to breakdown. After 3 months *eco bowls* will have broken down by as much as 30%. Complete decomposition will take between 1 and 3 years depending upon the size of the bowls and the conditions in the compost heap.

Are *eco bowls* dishwasher safe?

Yes, and no. The biocomposite that *eco bowls* are made out of is a structurally sound material that will hold up in a dishwasher; however, *eco bowls* are colored

with organic pigments that may fade when introduced to the harsh environment of a dishwasher.

While *eco bowls* can be cleaned in a dishwasher, in order to ensure that the pigment used to color *eco bowls* maintains its original hue we recommend hand washing and drying the bowls.

Will *eco bowls* begin to breakdown (degrade) if in contact with water or moist pet food for extended periods of time?

No. In order to begin the process of degradation, *eco bowls* must be subjected not only to moisture but also to carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and heat- conditions that are found in a compost heap.

What is used to color *eco bowls*?

Organic pigment is used to color *eco bowls*. The pigment is derived from plant-based materials.

Will chemicals/colorant from *eco bowls* leach into water/pet food?

No. There are no chemicals used in the manufacturing of *eco bowls*, therefore, no chemicals are present that could leach into a pets food or water supply. The pigment used to color *eco bowls* is organic and as such poses no threat to pets, that being said, the pigment is encapsulated in the product and will not leach.

Are *eco bowl* labels environmentally friendly?

Yes. Once introduced to a composting environment, *eco bowls* will completely degrade.

Traditional pet dishes can be very difficult, if not impossible to recycled depending upon what they are made out of. Because *eco bowls* are made from 100% natural materials their impact on the environment is minimized.

Why are *eco bowls* shaped the way they are?

eco bowls have been given a unique shape to complement and illustrate the product's unique composition.

The *eco bowl's* shape was inspired by nature- with clean, flowing lines and an unobtrusive presence.

Do *eco bowls* cost more than other Van Ness bowls or comparable plastic bowls?

eco bowls were conceived and designed with all pet consumers in mind- not just "green" consumers. *eco bowls* are competitively priced to fit into traditional pet watering and feeding offerings. *eco bowls* offer consumers a premium design along with premium characteristics (heavyweight feel) with the added benefit of being the most environmentally friendly pet bowl on the market today.

How should *eco bowls* be incorporated into a cat/dog watering and feeding program?

eco bowls were developed as a vehicle by which retailers could offer consumers an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional pet watering and feeding dishes.

The biocomposite *eco bowls* are made from was developed to replace melamine pet dishes, which tests have confirmed contain poisonous chemicals.

eco bowls provide retailers with an opportunity to give customers an environmentally friendly, safe for animals solution to pets' watering and feeding dish needs – an opportunity to do right by pets as well as the earth.

Where are *eco bowls* manufactured?

eco bowls were designed by Van Ness in USA and are manufactured in China.