

# THIRSTY FOR CHANGE

## FAQ. SAVE-A-CUP SCHEME

### 1. WHO ARE SAVE-A-CUP?

Save-a-Cup are a non-profit organisation set up by members of the vending industry to collect plastic vending cups. As a founding member of the organisation, FLAVIA have recently been working with Save-a-Cup to enable the collection of our new FLAVIA N-viro cups and FLAVIA filterpacks.

### 2. WHY DO WE USE SAVE-A-CUP?

Save-a-Cup are currently the only UK wide organisation that is able to collect specialist drinks waste such as the FLAVIA N-viro cup or the FLAVIA filterpack from workplaces and send them to recycling facilities. Whilst local authorities are increasingly helping households to recycle their waste, there is currently no infrastructure to enable them to offer a collection service to workplaces for specialist products like cups or filterpacks. To help your workplace to reduce the amount of waste you send to landfill, FLAVIA have established a collection scheme for FLAVIA N-viro cups and FLAVIA filterpacks, in association with Save-a-Cup.

### 3. WHY HAVE FLAVIA DEVELOPED THIS SCHEME?

FLAVIA are committed to helping our customers to reduce waste in their workplace. One way that we can do this is by offering a collection service for our N-viro cups to enable them to be composted. The aim of the scheme is to divert millions of cups from landfill sites over the next few years and our goal is for this service to be available throughout the UK in the future.

### 4. WHY CAN'T I JUST PUT THE CUPS ON THE GROUND IF THEY CAN COMPOST?

The N-viro cup will only compost in certain conditions and as such throwing a cup on the ground or even on a home compost heap will not enable the cups to compost. The only way to ensure the cups compost properly is for them to be sent to an industrial composting facility. To do this you need to join the Save-a-Cup scheme as most local authorities do not provide a collection service from workplaces for this product.

### 5. WHO CAN JOIN THE SCHEME CURRENTLY?

Any N-viro cup customer who has sites in the locations shown on the map below is able to join the composting scheme:

Scotland, collections would be possible from: -  
Glasgow, Falkirk, Sterling, Aberdeen Perth, Dundee and Edinburgh

North East of England, collections would be possible from: -  
Newcastle, Sunderland, Peterlee, Middlesbrough, Stockton on Tees, Darlington, Newton Aycliffe and Durham

North - M62 corridor and surrounding area, collections would be possible from: -  
Liverpool, Manchester, Preston, Southport, Lytham St Annes, Blackpool, Bolton, Sheffield, Bradford and Leeds

Midlands – M42 corridor and surrounding area, collections would be possible from:  
Stoke, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Coventry, Birmingham Wolverhampton

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**East Anglia, collections would be possible from: -**  
Kings Lynn, Norwich, Ipswich, Peterborough and Cambridge

**London and M3 corridor, collections would be possible from: -**  
London, Basingstoke, Andover, Winchester and Southampton

Other areas will be added on a regular basis, therefore it is advised to contact Save-a-Cup on 01494 510167 to confirm whether your site can join the scheme.

FLAVIA is working with Save-a-Cup to identify additional composting facilities which will enable us to offer this service to more areas across the UK in the future.

Other areas will be added on a regular basis, therefore, it is advised to contact Save-a-Cup to confirm whether your site can join the scheme.

## **6. HOW REGULARLY WILL SAVE-A-CUP COLLECT FROM MY SITE?**

Save-a-Cup will collect on a fortnightly basis from your site, however, if you have a large amount of drinks waste and are in a location regularly serviced by Save-a-Cup, it may be possible to arrange weekly collections. Save-a-Cup will be able to confirm whether your site is eligible for weekly collections when you register with them.

## **7. WHY DO I HAVE TO WAIT FOR MY FIRST DELIVERY OF N-VIRO CUPS BEFORE I CAN REGISTER WITH SAVE-A-CUP FOR THIS SCHEME?**

It is important that only FLAVIA N-viro cups are sent to composting facilities, as ordinary paper cups cannot be composted. Waiting until you receive your first delivery of FLAVIA N-viro cups before you register for the scheme will ensure that all of your old paper cups will have been used up before Save-a-Cup begin collecting FLAVIA N-viro cups.

## **8. WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE N-VIRO CUP BINS AND HOW QUICKLY WILL THE COLLECTIONS START?**

Once you have registered for the scheme, the bins and compostable bags will arrive at your office 4 weeks later. This 4 week time delay is necessary to ensure all ordinary FLAVIA paper cups have been used up. This will avoid the risk of sending ordinary FLAVIA paper cups to composting facilities as they cannot be composted. Your first N-viro cup collection will be arranged for 2 weeks after you receive your bins.

## **9. CAN SAVE-A-CUP COLLECT ANY OTHER FLAVIA OR KLIX WASTE?**

Yes! As part of the annual fee and site collection fee, Save-a-Cup can collect any FLAVIA or KLIX waste. FLAVIA filterpacks can be collected as part of the Waste2Energy scheme, which converts used filterpacks into energy to generate electricity. Plastic FLAVIA and KLIX cups can also be collected; these are turned into useful objects such as ice scrapers, pens and key rings!

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## 10. WHY DO I NEED A SEPARATE CUP BIN FOR THE FLAVIA N-VIRO CUPS?

The FLAVIA N-viro cups must be separated from other types of waste such as plastic and ordinary paper cups, FLAVIA filterpacks, drinks cans or snack food wrappers. If bags of N-viro cups are considered to be unsuitable to send to composting facilities, rather than send the waste to landfill, it will be sent to Waste2Energy facilities to be turned into energy. Save-aCup drivers are trained to only collect bags that contain FLAVIA N-viro cups. If contamination of N-viro bags becomes a regular problem then it may be necessary for Save-a-Cup to review the service they are able to offer your site.

Having a separate N-viro cup recycling bin will help your employees to segregate their waste as it is designed to clearly explain what can and cannot go into the bin. The N-viro cup bins can be ordered from Save-a-Cup for £135 each plus delivery and should be used throughout your workplace. We recommend you arrange employee training to educate your workforce on correct recycling procedures. Promotional material is available from Mars Drinks.

## 11. WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A FLAVIA CUP BIN?

If your organisation already has FLAVIA cup bins, then you will not need to purchase additional bins. It is however important that once you start collecting FLAVIA N-viro cups that ordinary paper cups are not collected in these bins as well. If you already have separate bins, the only change required is to start using the Save-a-Cup compostable bin bags to collect the N-viro cups.

## 12. DO I HAVE TO USE SAVE-A-CUP BIN BAGS?

Yes you have to use the Save-a-Cup compostable bin bags. The normal Save-a-Cup bags are non-compostable bags, which cannot be used for the FLAVIA N-viro cup collection scheme. The compostable bags are printed with a unique Save-a-Cup design and can be ordered from Save-a-Cup directly.

Non-compostable plastic bags cannot be used for the FLAVIA N-viro cup collection scheme as this would affect the quality of the compost therefore composting facilities will not accept the cups. The Save-a-Cup bags have been selected to meet the requirements of the composting facilities, are the right size to fit the bins without breaking and will not degrade within the fortnightly collection period.

Because it is not always easy to identify whether a bag is compostable, Save-a-Cup drivers have been trained to only collect N-viro cups in the compostable bags supplied by Save-a-Cup. Collecting bags that may not be compostable will mean diverting them to Waste2Energy facilities, which adds complexity and cost to the operation.

Bin bags can be ordered from Save-a-Cup and cost 40p each and are sold in packs

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of 100 (£40.00 per pack).

## 13. HOW QUICKLY WILL THE BIN BAGS DEGRADE?

In order for the cups to be accepted by the composting facilities, they need to be collected in bin bags that compost in the industrial composting facilities over a short period of time. As a result of this, the bags have a shorter shelf life than ordinary plastic bags. Bags containing FLAVIA N-viro cups are expected to begin to degrade after 6-8 weeks of use. As the bags will be collected on a fortnightly basis from your site, they will not begin degrading until they are in the composting facilities.

Ensuring your employees only put empty FLAVIA N-viro cups into the bins will help to ensure the bin bags do not start to biodegrade before the 6-8 week usage period. Liquid within the bin bags is not acceptable as it can speed up the degradation process.

## 14. CAN I PUT OTHER BIODEGRADABLE OR COMPOSTABLE MATERIAL IN THE BIN BAGS FOR COLLECTION?

It is strongly recommended that only FLAVIA N-viro cups are placed in the cup collection bins regardless of whether the other material is able to be composted e.g. banana skins. Having green waste in the bin bags could speed up the degradation process leading to the bags starting to break before the 6-8 week usage period.

## 15. WHY DO THE BIN BAGS COST MORE THAN NORMAL PLASTIC BAGS?

The bags need to be compostable in order to be suitable to send to an industrial composting facility. Compostable material is more expensive than normal plastic bags and as such the bags are more expensive. The quality and thickness of these bags also helps to ensure they do not degrade.

## 16. WILL THE BIN BAGS OR CUPS BEGIN TO DEGRADE WHILST ON MY SITE?

The bags are made from a compostable material and therefore can start to degrade after 6-8 weeks once they have been used to collect waste. Save-a-Cup will collect your bags on a fortnightly basis to ensure they do not degrade on your site.

The cups will not begin to break down until they are in an industrial composting facility, here they can take around 3 to 4 weeks to break down and after around 2 to 3 months they will have fully composted\*.

\*Figures based on trial carried out at TEG environmental on a sample of 180,000 cups.

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