



***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.