

BIOpvc® material specification

These environmentally friendly cards are made from PVC resin which is treated so as to make them completely biodegradable. Under normal conditions they perform exactly like our standard cards but when introduced into a fertile environment the break down process starts, completing in 1-5 years.

Focusing on this in more detail, the biodegradation process begins when the material is introduced into a fertile environment (compost, land fill, rubbish dump, the ground, lakes, rivers and the ocean) that allows microorganisms, which break down matter, to come into constant contact with the material. Once this occurs the special ingredients attract the microorganisms that begin to break down the hydrogen-carbon chain that exists in the PVC. This allows oxygen to enter which attaches itself to the hydrogen and carbon creating water and carbon dioxide.

The material was developed in 2004 and certified as fully safe and biodegradable in 2005. It has, however, only been introduced into the plastic card industry in 2009 and has become an ISO approved product with BRISTOL. The BIoPvc® material was tested under aerobic (with oxygen) conditions in a controlled composting test according to ISO 14855. The results of a full laboratory test is available upon request.

The material allows very high quality image reproduction when dye sublimation or thermally overprinted during personalization processes as it is PVC rather than an alternative product and produced under our unique FOTODEK™ quality brand procedures.

When designing the artwork for a BIoPvc® card it is recommended to include a reference to its biodegradability by using either the recycle motive with the text "BIO" in the centre or to use our FOTODEK™ BIO symbol using FOTODEK™ as a symbol of quality and assurance.