

Half a million fresh herbs switch to recyclable and compostable packaging at Aldi

Aldi's own-label potted herbs are now packaged in recyclable and home compostable materials. The change, which came into effect in March 2020, will lead to the removal of more than 550,000 non-recyclable plastic herb pots and sleeves from stores each year.



In total, 5.58 tonnes of non-recyclable material will be removed annually from Aldi's potted herbs range, namely Aldi's parsley, coriander and basil. The pot that holds the plant will now be made from polypropylene – a 100% recyclable material that is used across many different types of packaging and consumer goods – while the sleeve around the pot will be made from sugarcane derivatives and other home compostable materials. This now means customers can throw the sleeves into their brown bin or compost heap (along with the soil in the herb pot when finished with it), and the herb pot can go into the green bin to be recycled.

Aldi has been working with its Wicklow-based supplier O'Hanlon Herbs for the past six months to introduce the change. The initiative is part of Aldi's ongoing long-term plastic reduction programme throughout its 144 Irish stores, with the overall goal of having 100% recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging across its products by 2025.