

Common Ecovative Terms and Definitions

Things can get confusing at Ecovative with “molds” (fungi) and “molds” (forms), so we use “trays” and “tooling” instead!

Mushroom® Packaging: Trade name for protective packaging product

Myco Foam: Trade name for Ecovative’s foam-like material. Mushroom® Packaging is made of Myco Foam, as is our developing insulation material.

Myco Board™: Trade name for high-density, compressed products

Grow It Yourself (GIY): The program through which anyone can make their own products and projects through the purchase of our raw material.

Grow-tray: The plastic thermoformed tray in which parts are grown, which gives the final products their shape, form, and volume. Also called soft tooling.

Lid: The plastic cover that snaps onto a grow-tray to provide the right growth environment and biological conditions during the growth stage of production.

Hard tooling: This is the CNC machined aluminum tool over which all of the grow-trays are formed on the thermoforming machine.

Soft tooling: Another term for grow-trays.

Mycelium: The vegetative part of a fungus (sort of like the roots of a plant). These tiny interweaving fibers bond Mushroom Materials together.

Mycelia: Plural form of mycelium.

Hyphae: Each of the branching filaments that make up the mycelium of a fungus.

Inoculation: When mycelium is added to pasteurized substrate, the substrate is “inoculated” and the mycelium starts to spread and grow throughout.

Substrate: This is the growing media that the mycelium digests and binds together. It is typically comprised of a blend of agricultural byproducts such as seed husks and plant stalks.

Feedstock: The raw materials that are processed and blended to create the substrate.

Myceliate: To inoculate with mycelium. Ecovative created this word.

Wet Parts: These are mushroom parts before they are dried.

Auto-filler: This automated machine fills grow-trays with inoculated substrate to a specific density with an even, smooth top surface.

Part Popper: This automated machine removes parts from the grow-trays they are grown in.

Re-grind: This is a mixture of loose inoculated substrate that has been ground a second time to break-up the initial mycelial growth. This material is the input to the auto-filler.

Podding: This is the stage in the production process where parts are placed in a special incubation pod after being removed or “popped” from their grow-trays. The pods control humidity and CO2 levels. Podding increases the strength and improves the outer surface finish of parts.

Overgrowth: Overgrowth occurs during the podding stage when the outer “skin” of each part grows a soft velvety surface. Overgrowth depends on exposure to air and the absence of a plastic grow-tray.