

83 tons of plastic diverted from landfill following retailer's packaging projects

In a project spanning two years, the Shoprite Group has rolled out recyclable packaging for all 135 products in its popular Padkos private label range, diverting approximately 66 tons of plastic from landfill annually.

To ensure the new packaging is fit for purpose – and does not compromise food quality or safety – was a complex task requiring many rounds of testing over a 48-month period.

Available in various pack sizes*, the new Padkos packaging is made from mono-polymer plastic, which now makes it recyclable.

Earlier this year the Group also transitioned its private label soups to recyclable mono-polymer pouches, diverting a further 17 tons of plastic from landfill annually.

While plastic packaging a) maintains critical food safety and hygiene levels, b) helps in the preservation of food and c) ultimately in the reduction of food waste, the Group supports a more sustainable circular approach to packaging.

The retailer has set itself a target to ensure 100% of private label packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable in 2025. To this end, it has adopted a design-for-sustainability approach to packaging that considers the entire product life cycle, while making recycling easier for consumers. This includes clear, transparent labelling that indicates whether packaging is reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

By separating waste at home and looking out for the On-Pack Recycling Labels (OPRL) on packaging, customers can boost recycling rates and support the circular economy. Located on the back of pack, OPRLs inform consumers what to do with a packaging item once they have finished using it.

Padkos is available from Shoprite, Checkers, Checkers Hyper and selected OK stores nationwide.

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* The various Padkos pack sizes include 30g, 50g, 100, 150g, 170g, 200g, 250g, 300g and 450 – 750g bulk bags.