When you purchase standard or biodegradable Excel BBs, you are buying the best quality airsoft BBs in the world, bar none. The real proof is in the fact that Excel BBs are the most popular brand of Airsoft BBs in Asia, Europe and in North America.

What makes Excel so popular? Excel is the most popular brand of Airsoft BB because of their high quality and low impact on the environment. Excel BBs are made in Japan, and the Japanese are renowned for making remarkably high quality products. The Excel BB line is no exception.

All standard and biodegradable Excel BBs are cast in extremely accurate dies and polished in a special process that leaves each BB perfectly round and smooth with no dents, nicks or part lines. This process guarantees that each and every Excel BB is exactly 3.98mm in diameter with a maximum tolerance of just 0.01mm.

But there is more to the perfect Airsoft BB than just being perfectly round. The material used in its construction is equally important. Excel standard BBs are made with a special plastic so they will not chip or be easily dented or deformed when handled or fired through an Airsoft gun. And unlike some brands which use harmful materials such as lead, Excel standard BBs are made with inert non-toxic materials that make them completely safe for the environment, even though they do not break down as rapidly as Excel biodegradable BBs.

The most common question we get is "Are Excel Biodegradable BBs Really Biodegradable?" The answer is "Yes".

Excel BBs are manufactured in a special process from 3 primary elements: Barium Sulfate, Cornstarch, and a special patented Synthetic Biodegradable Polymer.

**Barium Sulfate** is the weight component of the BB. Barium Sulfate is a soft, non-toxic earth metal. The form that most people are familiar with is Radiopaque, the white milky liquid that doctors have people drink to enhance X-ray images of the digestive system. Barium Sulfate is twice as heavy as aluminum and half as heavy as steel.

**Cornstarch** is the degradation accelerator component of Excel BBs. Once exposed to moisture and sunlight, cornstarch serves as a starter for the biodegradation process by attracting bacteria to the BB.

The special **Synthetic Biodegradable Polymer** makes up the bulk of the Excel BB. This polymer is a patented synthetic plastic that degrades and dissolves completely when exposed to moisture and sunlight.

**Q. How Does the Excel BB Biodegradation Process Work?**
**A.** When an Excel BB is exposed to the elements, bacteria begin to attack the BB by feeding on the cornstarch. The combined exposure to bacteria, sunlight and moisture then dissolve the biodegradable plastic. The remaining element Barium Sulfate is dispersed into the soil where it is broken down further by natural elements. Once this process is complete, no visible evidence of the Excel BB remains.

**Q. How Long Do Excel BBs Take To Fully Degrade?**
**A.** The environment differs from location to location, which influences the actual time period required for full degradation. However, on average, Excel BBs will degrade in about 2 or 3 years. In one case, we found that biodegradable BBs used in the Nevada desert north of Reno had degraded in only one year. This is probably the fastest rate at which Excel biodegradable BBs will dissolve.

**Q. How Long Will Excel BBs Last in My Gear Bag After I Buy Them?**
**A.** As long as you keep the BBs stored in a cool dry place, the BBs will last for many years without a change in their shape or integrity. Sunlight, along with humidity or dampness, will cause Excel biodegradable BBs to begin the decomposition process.

**Q. If Excel BBs Get Wet or Are Exposed To High Humidity, Will It Ruin the BBs?**
**A.** No! Excel BBs are specifically designed to withstand short exposure to moisture without causing any damage to the BBs. In fact, you can drop a bag of Excel BBs in a bowl of water, take it out the next day, dry them off, and they will be perfectly fine to use without any swelling or softening. Excel BBs only begin to dissolve when exposed to a combination of bacteria, water and sun.

**Q. Will Excel BBs Swell and Jam My Gun If the BBs Get Wet?**
**A.** This will never happen with Excel Bio-degradable BBs. In the past, some bio-degradable BBs made by Marui were made from corn. These BBs degraded in only one month's time, which was great for the environment. The only drawback was that the BBs were extremely sensitive to moisture. When exposed, they would swell and cause Airsoft guns to jam. Excel BBs will not expand, even as they begin their actual degrading process. They just dissolve into residue.

**Q. Are There Any Performance Differences Between Normal and Biodegradable Excel BBs?**
**A.** There are no performance differences between the two at all. All Excel BBs are manufactured to the same high standards of smoothness, roundness and precision.

**Q. Why Are There Fewer BBs in a Bag of Biodegradable Excel BBs Than in a Bag of Normal Excel BBs?**
**A.** The special biodegradable plastic that is used in Excel biodegradable BBs is very expensive to produce because it is a specially developed polymer. The process of incorporating the cornstarch into the BB composition is very difficult which further adds to the cost. Because of the extra costs, there are less BBs in the biodegradable bag so that the per-price of the bag is kept roughly the same.