



Harvard Professor Makes Inhalable Coffee, No Cup Required

by Yuka Yoneda, 03/22/10



Got a case of the Monday mornings? If you're like millions of other Americans, a nice, hot cup of joe is your go-to cure, but what about all of those paper cups that go to waste just so that we can get our fix? Well, one Harvard biomedical engineering professor, David A. Edwards, has developed a product that may make getting caffeine into your system a little more eco-friendly. Called **Le Whif** Coffee, Edwards' java jolt comes in a biodegradable container about the same size as a tube of lipstick, and is ingested by inhalation instead of drinking. True, the best option would be if we could get everyone in the world to use a **reusable cup** for their coffee, but Le Whif might be a more enticing alternative while we work on that.



Le Whif is produced through a process called particle engineering, where **coffee** particles are decreased in size until they can be airborne. Then, those particles are packaged up in a tiny biodegradable canister that you can carry with you on the go. With about 58 billion hot paper cups used in the U.S. each year, Le Whif could really cut down on our waste if people opted for it instead of grabbing a cup at Starbucks and tossing it

How It Works

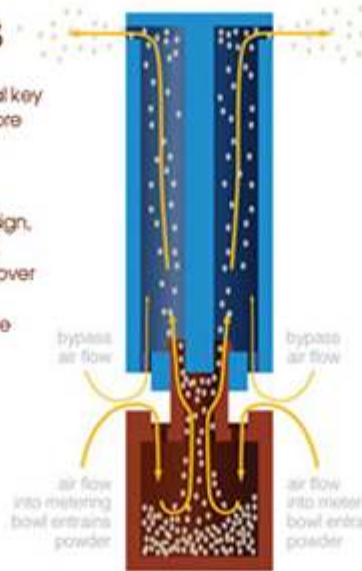
The new Le Whif design has several key features that will make whiffing more fun and delicious than ever:

Lots of chocolate!

The new Le Whif, by its special design, provides up to eight even puffs of chocolate, which you can enjoy over a coffee, or throughout a long afternoon. Each puff of chocolate is much less than a single calorie!

Easy to open!

Once you get the hang of it, you can open Le Whif with a single hand, by gripping the brown base, and pushing the colored end between your thumb and index finger.



No spill!

The new Le Whif has a clever design that makes it possible to open, close, and use Le Whif, and not have chocolate powder fall out, even while air can pass easily through it.

Biodegradable!

The new plastic Le Whif can be disposed of safely because it is made of biodegradable poly-lactic acid (PLA).

Le Whif uses particle engineering to form natural food substances, like chocolate, in particle sizes that are small enough to become airborne though too large to enter the lungs. The new design directs food particles to the mouth following the air that accompanies a natural inhalation.

depicts Le Whif Chocolate, but the container is similar to the coffee version

But will Le Whif catch on? People drink **coffee** for the caffeine, but they also love the taste and ritual of sipping it. So again, we think the simplest way to reduce waste is for everyone to simply get a reusable coffee mug or cup, but there's no reason why you can't try Le Whif at the same time!

Le Whif is now available at **Dylan's Candy Bar** in NYC and **Cardullo's** in Boston as well as on the **website** if you want to experience it for yourself!

<http://www.inhabitat.com/2010/03/22/harvard-professor-makes-inhalable-coffee-no-cup-required/>