



### Model Bale Specifications: HDPE Color Bottles and Gradings

This model is not meant to replace the specifications of individual buyers, many of whom may have different allowables in terms of contents and bale sizes. Rather, it is meant to provide a benchmark to suppliers of Colored HDPE Bales.

*Any whole, blow-molded, high density polyethylene bottle containing the ASTM D7611 “#2, HDPE” resin identification code that is pigmented and opaque, and was generated from a curbside, drop-off, or other public or private recycling collection program. Bottles are defined as containers that have a neck or mouth that is smaller than the base. All bottles should be free of contents or free flowing liquids and rinsed. While including closures (caps, lids, and rings) on bottles is acceptable, removal of closures is also acceptable.*

HDPE Bale Grade	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade F
Total HDPE Fraction by weight	95% or above	85%-94%	80%-84%	79% or below

*“HDPE Fraction” refers to the total weight of HDPE bottles in a HDPE bale, inclusive of caps and labels when still attached to HDPE containers, as a percentage of the total weight of that bale.*

**ALLOWABLE LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS:** Total contaminants should not exceed the percentages, by weight, as defined by the HDPE bale grades in chart above. No more than 2% by weight of any of the following “individual” contaminants will be allowed:

- |  |    |                    |
|--|----|--------------------|
| ) Any other non-HDPE rigid plastic container or packaging, including PET (#1), LDPE (#4), PP (#5), PS (#6), Other (#7) | ?) | Liquid Residues    |
|  | ?) | Aluminum           |
|  | ?) | Paper or Cardboard |

**THE FOLLOWING CONTAMINANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY LEVEL:**

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| ) Bulky Rigids                            | ?)  | Wood, glass, oils, grease                       |
| ) Any Plastics with PLA or Foaming Agents | ?)  | Medical and Hazardous Waste                     |
| ) Rocks, Stones, Mud, Dirt                | ?)  | PVC (#3) in any form                            |
| ) Any plastic bags or film from any resin | ??) | HDPE (#2) motor oil or other automotive fluids. |
| ) Metal                                   |     |   |

- ) **IMPORTANT:** Any plastic container that previously contained any hazardous or potentially hazardous material, including needles, should be strictly avoided. Many purchasers will reject an entire load if any of the above materials are found and will return them at the supplier’s expense.

**Bale Size/Minimum Shipping Weight/ Tare Weight:** Approximately 30"x42"x 48" or 30"x48"x 60". Bale sizes should allow a minimum of 35,000 pounds to be shipped on 48 foot trailer. Individual companies may apply price deductions for shipments that do not meet their minimum weight requirements. A tare weight of 8 pounds per bale may be taken from the gross weight for baling wire.

**Bale Density:** 15-20 lbs. /ft3

**Bale Integrity:** Bale integrity must be maintained throughout loading, shipping, unloading and storage.



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**Bale Wire:** Bales should be held together with 10-12 gauge, noncorrosive galvanized metal wire and with all bale wires wrapped in one direction (crisscrossing or double strapping should be preapproved by the buyer before shipping). A minimum number of bale wires should be used to maintain bale integrity. This number will vary with bale size and density.

**Storage:** Bales should be stored, with the bottom bale on a pallet, indoors or covered outdoors. Material must not be stored outdoors uncovered for a period exceeding four (4) weeks to prevent UV degradation from direct sunlight and moisture contamination.

*The Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) is the “Voice of Plastics Recycling®.” As the international trade association representing the plastics recycling industry, membership includes independent recycling companies of all sizes, processing numerous resins, as well as consumer product companies, equipment manufacturers, testing laboratories, organizations, and others committed to the success of plastics recycling. APR advocates the recycling of all plastics. Visit [www.PlasticsRecycling](http://www.PlasticsRecycling) for more information.*