



**Testing Protocol for Assessing Color HDPE Truckload Bale Grade
Accompanying Document to Model Bale Specifications:
HDPE Color Bottles and Gradings**

This protocol is intended to assist in determining the percent of recoverable HDPE in a Color HDPE Bale (HDPE Fraction).

-) Weigh incoming HDPE load
-) Visually inspect load, while in truck and upon unloading, if possible

If truck weight or visual inspection identifies obvious contamination, prohibited materials, or other significant issues, material will be photographed and will trigger buyer’s specific protocols. If bale quality appears within tolerance thresholds, material from truckload will be audited using steps below:

1. Preferred sample size is 225 pounds or more. At a minimum, 75-80 pounds (approximately two 55-gallon drums of material) should be pulled. Pull sample from various places in HDPE bale and/or load, if possible, to get representative material.
2. Weigh full sample.
3. Sort into categories:
 - a. HDPE Bottles
 - b. PET bottles and containers
 - c. #3 - #7 bottles and containers
 - d. Aluminum
 - e. Cardboard and loose paper
 - f. Prohibited contaminants

The HDPE container fraction weight is the key measurement for bale grading, taken as a percentage of the total sample weight. The weights of total sample, HDPE fraction, and other category fractions are assumed to include residual liquid and food still in the bottles, as well as caps and labels if still attached to bottles.

See Model Bale Specifications and Gradings: **Color HDPE Bottles** for prohibited materials.

| | ~Sample Audit Sort Categories~ | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Total Sample | HDPE Bottles | PET Bottles & Containers | #3 - #7 Bottles & Containers | Aluminum | Cardboard & loose Paper | Prohibited Contaminants |
| Weight | | | | | | | |
| Category Weight/Total Weight x 100 = HDPE Fraction % | _____ % | _____ % | _____ % | _____ % | _____ % | _____ % | _____ % |

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