



Model Bale Specifications: PE Retail Bags and Film

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.

Any polyethylene bag and overwrap accepted by retailers from their customers or polyethylene stretch wrap or other film generated back of house may be included. Bags may be mixed color or printed and primarily HDPE but are expected to include other polyethylene bags and LDPE/LLDPE overwrap. Films may be coded with ASTM D7611 resin identification code “#2, HDPE” and #4, LDPE”. All bag bundles should be free of free-flowing liquids. Postconsumer is defined as “used for its intended purpose and otherwise directed to disposal”.

ALLOWABLE LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS: Total contaminants should not exceed **5%** by weight.

- Pigmented polyethylene films
- Non-polyethylene other plastics
- Labels
- Loose Paper
- Strapping, twine or tape
- Food waste
- Liquid residue (2% maximum)

THE FOLLOWING CONTAMINANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY LEVEL:

- Medical and hazardous waste
- Wood
- Glass
- Oils and Grease
- Rocks, stones, mud, dirt
- Metallized labels or films
- Multi-material pouches
- Silicone coated film
- Film with oxo or bio-degradable additives
- PVDC layers
- Acrylic coating
- Rubber bands

IMPORTANT: Any plastic item that previously contained or contacted any hazardous or potentially hazardous material, including but not limited to chemical agricultural products, pesticides, herbicides, waste oil, paint, medical products (drugs, IV solutions, syringes/hypodermic needles, sharps), flammable, corrosive or reactive liquids, grease and solvents should be strictly avoided. This rule applies even if the aforementioned material was not the original contents of a bag. Many purchasers will reject an entire load if any of the above materials are found and will return them at the supplier’s expense. Purchasers may require certification bales do not include prohibited materials.

Bale Size/Minimum Shipping Weight/ Tare Weight: Approximately 30"x42"x 48" or 30"x48"x 60". Bale sizes should allow a minimum of 38,000 pounds to be shipped on 53 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.



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Bale Density: 15lbs/ft³ or the minimum to achieve 38,000 pounds in a trailer load.

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

Bale Wire: Bales should be held together with 10-12 gauge, noncorrosive galvanized metal wire, 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.