



Color Impact Quick Reference Table for PET

Color type	Examples	Recycling Impact
No color used	Standard soft drink bottles, home cleaning products, personal care	Preferred for widest use and most value for recycling
Transparent light blue color	Color in some water brands	Are routinely added to clear PET as a “bluing” agent.
Transparent green color	Common green color of carbonated soft drink bottles	Sorted from the clear, about 15% of the carbonated beverage market. Used widely for PET strapping at slight discount to clear PET.
Amber color	Prune juice, root beer, beer	Sorted from clear. Sold at steep discount for mixed color applications.
Other transparent colors	Shampoo, home cleaning products	Sorted from clear. Sold at steep discount for mixed color applications.
Translucent colors, often pearlescent colors	Used in personal care applications	Sorted from clear. Sold at steep discount for mixed color applications. Green shades may go back into strapping.
Opaque chromatic colors	Used in personal care, home laundry and liquor applications.	Not desirable, even in mixed color applications – white pigments used in opaque colors make it difficult to make black mixed color PCR. Green shades may go back into strapping.
Opaque white	Dairy, mouth wash and liquor applications	White bottles are very difficult to color sort accurately; often require manual sort for reliable removal. Not desirable, even in mixed color applications – white makes it very difficult to create black mixture. Often land filled.
Opaque black	CPET trays primarily	Not detected in NIR sorters, often, although not always, discarded to landfill.