



## Model Bale Specifications: HDPE Injection Bulky Rigid Plastics

This model specification provides industry-developed guidelines for recycling market acceptance of this baled commodity. It is not intended to replace the specifications of individual buyers that may allow or prohibit different contents or bale sizes. It provides a benchmark for sellers for producing quality recycled plastic baled commodities.

*Any injection grade high density polyethylene (#2 HDPE) rigid plastic, typically found to be wide mouthed containers and/or oversized items generated through a positive sort from curbside, drop-off or other public or private recycling collection program. Examples include: carts, crates, buckets, baskets, or other large all-injection HDPE items. Small injection molded containers are acceptable. Pallets or other injection molded large items from commercial sources can be included. Metal such as axels and bolts must be removed. Buckets/pails with metal handles and all HDPE plastic toys without metal rods or screws are acceptable.*

*Blow molded containers of any size should not be included (e.g., 55 gallon drums or 2 gallon syrup containers).*

**Total contamination should not exceed 5% by weight.** Contamination exceeding 5% may reduce bale value. The lower the % of contamination the higher the value of the bale; higher levels of contamination is potential for downgrade or rejection.

**ALLOWABLE CONTAMINANTS AT LOW LEVELS:** These contaminants are tolerable at low levels. None of the following individual contaminants should exceed 2%, by weight, unless noted otherwise. Excessive levels may reduce bale value.

- Polypropylene rigid plastic (5% maximum)
- Any other non-HDPE rigid plastic, including PET (#1), PVC (#3), LDPE (#4), PS (#6), Other (#7) and compostable plastic (e.g., PLA and PHA) (4% maximum of all combined)
- Liquid or other residues
- Loose paper or cardboard (OCC)
- Aluminum cans

**CONTAMINANTS NOT ALLOWED:** *If present, these contaminants may result in rejection.*

- Any item with degradable additives
- Containers which held hazardous materials, such as flammable, corrosive or reactive products, pesticides or herbicide
- Any plastic bags or film
- Any plastic foam
- Other metal, wood, glass
- Batteries
- Electronics scrap, including items with circuit boards or battery packs
- Bio-Medical waste/items (e.g., syringes, sharps, gloves, masks)
- Rocks, stones, mud, oils, grease



## The Association of Plastic Recyclers

**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 seller's expense.

**Bale Size/Minimum Shipping Weight/ Tare Weight:** Bales should be a minimum of 30"x42"x 48". 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/ft<sup>3</sup>

**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 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.

**Other Bale Wrap or Binding:** Plastic wrap, cardboard headers, or other additional binding beyond bale wire should not be used.

**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.

### DOCUMENT VERSION HISTORY

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