



Model Bale Specification: PET Bottles

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 all bale types.

Any whole polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle with a screw-neck top that contains the ASTM D7611 “#1, PET or PETE” resin identification code and that is clear, transparent green, or transparent light blue. All bottles should be free of contents or free flowing liquids and rinsed. Closures (caps, lids, and rings) may be left on bottles. Post-consumer is defined as “used for its intended purpose and otherwise directed to disposal.”

PET Bale Grade	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade F
Total PET fraction by weight	94% or above	83 – 93%	73 – 82%	72 % or below

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

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR PET BUYER(S) as to their allowances for:

- Other Colored PET Containers
- PET Thermoforms, e.g., microwave trays, dishes, bakery trays, deli containers, clamshell containers, drink cups

ALLOWABLE LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS: Total contaminants should not exceed the percentages, by weight, as defined by PET bale grades in chart above.

- HDPE (#2) Rigid Plastic Containers
- LDPE (#4) Rigid Plastic Containers
- PP (#5) Rigid Plastic Containers
- Aluminum
- Metal containers or cans
- Paper or cardboard
- Liquid residues, primarily water (2% maximum allowed)

THE FOLLOWING CONTAMINANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY LEVEL:

- PVC (#3) in any form
- Chemically incompatible low temperature melting materials, including PS (#6) plastic and PLA plastic, as rigid or foam in any product.
- Chemically compatible low temperature melting materials, such as PETG
- Any plastic bags or plastic film
- Wood, glass, oils and grease
- Rocks, stones, mud, dirt
- Medical and hazardous waste
- Items containing degradable additives

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 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.

Bale Density: 15-18 lbs/ft³

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.



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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 two (2) weeks to prevent UV degradation from direct sunlight and moisture contamination.