



### Model Bale Specifications: 3-7 Bottles and ALL Other Rigid Plastics

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.

*Rigid plastic items generated in a **positive sort** from a curbside, drop-off, or other public or private recycling programs from which the PET and HDPE bottles have been removed. **Pre-picked plastic** consists of non-PET and non-HDPE household bottles and all non bottle containers including thermoform packaging, cups, trays, clamshells, food tubs and pots, and all large rigid plastics, primarily PE and PP (includes plastic crates, carts, buckets, baskets and plastic lawn furniture). Metal, as typically found in toys or bucket handles, should be removed when possible. Plastic items from construction or demolition should not be included in Pre-Picked bales.*

**VARIATION – 3-7 Bottles and SMALL Rigid Plastics** (Also known as “Small Plastic Containers” (SPC) and “Household Containers”)

- Bulky rigid plastic, greater than 5 gallons, should be avoided (e.g., drums, crates, buckets, baskets, toys, totes and lawn furniture)

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

- Metal ( 2% maximum acceptable)
- Paper/cardboard (2% maximum acceptable)
- Liquid or other residues (1 % maximum acceptable)

**THE FOLLOWING CONTAMINANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANY LEVEL:**

- Any plastic bags, sheets, or film
- Wood, glass, electronics scrap
- Oils, grease, rocks, mud, dirt
- Containers which held flammable, corrosive or reactive products, pesticides or herbicides.
- Items with circuit boards or battery packs
- Medical and hazardous waste
- Products with degradable additives

**IMPORTANT:** Any plastic container that previously contained any hazardous or potentially hazardous material 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:** Approximately 30"x42"x 48" or 30"x48"x 60". Bale sizes should allow a minimum of 35,000 pounds to be shipped on 48 foot trailer, which is an industry standard. Individual companies may apply price deductions for shipments that do not meet their minimum weight requirements.

**Bale Density:** 15-20 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>

**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.

**Bale Tare Weight:** A tare weight of 8 pounds per bale may be taken from the gross weight.

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

**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.