



Model Bale Specification: PET Thermoforms

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 whole, extrusion grade, clear or transparent light blue polyethylene terephthalate (PET) postconsumer package labeled with the ASTM D7611 “#1, PET or PETE” resin identification code, not including bottles and jars, but including and not limited to egg cartons, baskets, clamshell containers, cups, lids, cake domes, covers, blister pack without paperboard backing, tubs, deli containers, trays and folded PET sheet containers. All packages should be free of contents or free flowing liquids. Closures (caps, lids, rings and labels) may be included.

*All thermoform pieces must be **optically sorted (as PET)**, and no other thermoform shall come from any other sorting stations. (This is specified to prevent lookalike thermoform—PS, PLA, PVC—from being mixed with PET.)*

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

- transparent green or any other color (other than light blue)

Total contamination should not exceed 6% by weight. Contamination exceeding 6% 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. The following contaminants should not exceed 2% by weight of any of the following “individual” contaminants, unless noted otherwise. Excessive levels may reduce bale value.

- HDPE (#2), LDPE (#4), PP (#5) rigid packaging
- PS (#6) and Other #7 rigid plastic, including PLA plastic
- Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol (PETG)
- PVC (3#) – maximum 1%
- Aluminum cans
- Loose paper or cardboard (OCC)
- Liquid residues

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

- Any non-packaging products
- Any bulky rigid plastics
- Any plastic bags or plastic film
- Any plastic foam
- Items containing degradable additives
- Containers that held hazardous materials, such as flammable, corrosive or reactive products, pesticides or herbicides, including motor oil bottles
- Other metal, wood, glass



- Batteries
- Bio-medical waste items (e.g., syringes, sharps, gloves, masks)
- Rocks, stones, mud, oils and grease

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.

If a material is not specified above, seller should assume it is not acceptable to include in the bale.

Bale Size/Minimum Shipping Weight/ Tare Weight: Bales should be a minimum of 30"x42"x48". 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.

Bale Density: 15-17 lbs/ft³. Density must not exceed 17 pounds per cubic foot.

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.

Other Bale Wrap or Binding: Plastic wrap, cardboard headers, or binding materials other than 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 two (2) weeks to prevent UV degradation from direct sunlight and moisture contamination.

DOCUMENT VERSION HISTORY

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