

Bale Specification: PET Bottles (No PET Thermoforms)

Description: Any whole polyethylene terephthalate (PET) postconsumer bottle or jar 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. Closures (caps, lids, rings, and labels) may be left on bottles.

Product: Polyethylene Terephthalate Bottles

Source: Post-consumer material collected primarily from residential sources, may also include some material that has met its intended use from commercial establishments.

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

“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.

There are 10 U.S. states with container deposit laws in place; all include a subset of PET containers. It is assumed that deposit bales will contain a high fraction of PET and that the grading scale above applies to all PET bales, including deposit. However, because the container mix, collection and aggregation process is defined through state statute, deposit bale specifications are not specifically addressed in this document.

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

- Any other Color PET Containers (including fluorescents and opaques)

Contamination: Total contaminants should not exceed the percentages, by weight, as defined by PET bale grade chart above

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.

- HDPE (#2), LDPE (#4), PP (#5) rigid packaging
- Clear PET (#1) Thermoformed Plastic (e.g., clamshells, bakery trays, covers, deli containers, drink cups)
- Aluminum cans
- Loose paper or cardboard (OCC)
- Liquid residues

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

- PVC (#3) in any form

- Chemically incompatible or low temperature melting materials, including PS (#6), PETG, and PLA, as rigid or foam in any product.
- Any #7 plastics, including polycarbonate bottles
- Any non-packaging products
- Any bulky rigid plastics
- Any plastic bags or plastic film
- Any plastic foam
- Any Item containing degradable additives
- Containers which 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