



The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers

Model Bale Specifications: “Tubs & Lids”

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.

*Any whole container, with a #5 PP, #2 HDPE and/or #4 LDPE resin codes, generated through a **positive sort** from curbside, drop-off or other public or private recycling collection program. Tubs are containers that have a neck or mouth similar in size to its base. Lids are caps for tubs that have a fastening feature other than threads. Examples include: yogurt cups, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs, cold drink cups (transparent, cold serve).*

VARIATION – “Tubs & Lids w/Bulky Rigid”

- Please refer to “Bulky Rigid” model bale specs for additional allowable material

ACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF CONTAMINANTS: Total contaminants should not exceed 10% by weight.

- Metal (2% max. acceptable)
- Paper/cardboard (2% max. acceptable)
- Injection-molded HDPE #2 and #1 PET Bottles or thermoforms (2% max. acceptable)
- Any plastic containers or packaging including PET (#1), PVC (#3), PS (#6), Other (#7) (2% max. acceptable)
- Liquid/other residues (2% max. 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/ft³

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.