



Recycled Materials  
Association

## HDPE Natural Bottles

**Description:** Any whole, blow-molded, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bottle containing the ASTM D7611 “#2, HDPE” resin identification code that is unpigmented, and was generated from a curbside, drop-off, or other public or private recycling collection program. Bottles are defined as containers that have a neck or mouth that is smaller than the base.

**Product:** Polyethylene Bottles

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

All bottles should be free of contents or free flowing liquids. While including closures (caps, lids, and rings) on bottles is acceptable, removal of closures is also acceptable. Loose caps and closures should not be added to the bale.

*Cooking oil in natural HDPE bottles should be sorted into the Color HDPE Bottle bale.*

**ITEMS RESULTING IN A DOWNGRADE TO COLOR HDPE BALE:** Inclusion of the below items will downgrade a Natural Bottle Bale to a Color HDPE Bottle Bale.

- Pigmented white and yellow HDPE (#2) milk jugs
- Other pigmented HDPE (#2) bottles and containers

**Contamination:** *Total contamination should not exceed 5% by weight.*

**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.*

- Liquid residues
- Loose paper or cardboard (OCC)
- Aluminum cans
- Any other HDPE (#2) rigid plastic
- Any non-HDPE rigid plastic bottle, container or packaging, including PET (#1), LDPE (#4), PP (#5), PS (#6), Other (#7) and compostable plastic (e.g. PLA and PHA) (2% maximum of all combined)

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

- Any item with degradable additives

- Containers which held hazardous materials, such as flammable, corrosive or reactive products, pesticides or herbicides
- Any PVC (#3) rigid plastic bottle, container or packaging
- Any bulky rigid plastic
- Any plastic bags or film
- Any plastic foam
- Other metal, wood, glass
- Batteries
- Electronics scrap, including items with circuit boards or battery packs
- Bio-Medical non-bottle waste/items (e.g. syringes, sharps, gloves, masks)
- Rocks, stones, mud, oils, grease

**General:** Refer to the General Information section for additional information

*Effective as of: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025*