



Recycled Materials
Association

HDPE Color Bottles & Select Containers

Description: Any high density polyethylene (HDPE) blow-molded bottle or blow-molded jar/canister, containing the ASTM D7611 “#2, HDPE” resin identification code, as well as PE squeeze tube and HDPE rigid can and bottle carriers, all primarily pigmented and opaque, and generated from a curbside, drop-off, or other public or private recycling collection program. Bottles are blow-molded and defined as containers that have a neck or mouth that is smaller than the base. HDPE jars/canisters are blow-molded with a mouth similar dimension to the base (e.g. coffee or cleaning wipes containers). PE squeeze tubes are compatible containers with a rigid shoulder/closure and squeezable body pinched off at the other end. HDPE rigid can and bottle carriers are made from bottle grade HDPE.

All bottles, jars/canisters and tubes 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.

Product: Polyethylene Bottles, jars/canisters, and tubes

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

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

- HDPE motor oil or other automotive fluid bottles
- *Non-bottle HDPE container/item using fractional melt HDPE resin:*
 - HDPE Thermoforms

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.* Injection molded HDPE (#2) containers (e.g tubs, buckets)
- 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)
- Loose paper or cardboard (OCC)
- Liquid residues
- Aluminum cans

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 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 12th, 2025