

Circular Economy for PET

Let's partner to ensure that our packaging is recyclable and effectively recycled.

This will help steer South Africa towards a circular economy where packaging never becomes waste, but rather a valuable resource to make new products, sustain jobs and protect our environment.



Guidelines developed in accordance with The PET Plastic Recycling NPC (PETCO).

Design Guidelines

Design for Recycling Guidelines

Follow these guidelines to optimize the recyclability of your packaging to reduce waste to landfill and prevent plastic pollution.

Combining Materials

The density of PET is $>1\text{g/cm}^3$ (sinks in water). Recycling requires separation of the PET container from its closure and label/sleeve. Therefore closures and labels/sleeves must be made from materials with density *less* than 1g/cm^3 (floats in water), such as Polypropylene (PP) and High/Low Density Polyethylene (HDPE/LDPE).

SHAPE:

- Easy to empty of contents
- Small bottles are less likely to be recycled

CLOSURE:

Best Options:

- Made from HDPE/ LDPE or PP
- One-piece tamper evident design

Avoid:

Metal, silicon and PVC

COLOURS:

Best Options:

- Clear PET is best
- Light blue or green and amber PET is acceptable

Avoid:

Opaque (solid), fluorescent and bright colours

MATERIAL:

Best Options:

Virgin or rPET

Avoid:

- Polycarbonates (PC) as they cause hazing and deterioration within recycled PET
- Oxo-degradable additives and biodegradable plastic (eg. PLA) as they contaminate the recycling stream

Note: Biodegradable PET can not be recycled. Industrial biodegrading facilities do not exist at scale in SA



Label (PP/PE) Wraparound (PP)

DECORATION:

Best Options:

- Wraparound (PP/BOPP)
- Self-adhesive labels (PP/PE)

Caution:

- Paper labels must not lose fibres (pulp)
- Adhesives must be water or alkali-soluble at 60 - 80 °C

Avoid:

- Direct printing (Only batch or date coding is acceptable)
- PET / PVC labels and shrinksleeves (same density as PET container so unable to separate label during recycling)
- Note that PP shrinksleeves are likely to be mistaken for PET shrinksleeve so are not likely to be recycled
- Metalised labels and foils



Direct Printing Shrink sleeve

POLYMER IDENTIFICATION CODE:

Must be clearly embossed on the container itself

Note: PIC's have no consumer relevance. They are used by recyclers to identify the material so they know how to recycle it. It does not mean the pack is recyclable.



PET