

# **Best Practices and Industry Standards in PET Plastic Recycling**

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**For:**

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recycling, even with automated sorting technology. The best way to ensure that E-PET gets removed to the greatest practical extent is to remove any #1 container that contains a built-in handle. These handleware containers are manufactured exclusively with E-PET resins.

Multi-layer PET containers - an increasing number of PET containers on the market are manufactured with a multi-layer construction. Some these containers are manufactured with a barrier resin known as ethyl vinyl alcohol (EVOH). The presence of EVOH is a problem for some reclaimers as it effects the clarity of the finished product or can cause a change in the intrinsic viscosity (IV) of the recycled PET that renders it unacceptable for certain end-use applications. Like PET-G, however, it is very difficult to distinguish a multi-layer PET container from a single-layer PET container. Once again, it is important to determine whether a particular purchaser has any specific restrictions on the presence of these materials.

### ***Colored PET***

While PET containers are manufactured in many different colors, PET reclaimers and end-users are generally only interested in clear and transparent green containers, as they have the best end-use applicability. While there are a growing number of transparent blue PET bottles and containers entering the marketplace, some reclaimers have restrictions as to the presence of blue containers, while other reclaimers are able to “blend” them off into certain end-use applications. Once again, it is essential to understand the exact specification of your particular PET purchaser. The presence of any pigmentation other than transparent green is unacceptable to most PET reclaimers and no other colors of PET bottles or containers should be included for recycling. These restrictions include any opaque colored PET containers as well as transparent amber (brown) or blue PET bottles or containers.

### ***Labels***

While most paper and plastic labels used on custom-PET containers and the glues used to affix them can be removed from granulated PET during the cleaning process, certain PET containers, including coffee containers, liquor bottles and mustard jars, may contain metallized labels that pose problems for some reclaimers. Not all reclaimers encounter these problems, but enough do to make it worth noting. Once again, check with your PET purchaser on specific restrictions they may have. However, as a general rule, PET purchasers will accept PET bottles and containers with whatever materials are physically affixed to the bottle or container.