

How to improve the recyclability of glass bottles



Bottle

Do: Light weighting.
Don't: Packaging that underperforms, so the product is lost.

Material

Do: follow commission decision 2001/171/EC on glass packaging
Preferred: try to use as much recycled content as possible.
Difficult in recycling: Heat resistant glass, lead crystal, opal glass and enamels on glass.

Adhesives

Do: Water or alkali soluble in 60-80°C, wash off self-adhesives.
Difficult in recycling: hot-melts, self-adhesive labels (non-wash off).

Closure

Do: Metal or plastic closures which can come loose as the glass is broken.

Labels, sleeves and tamper evidence

Preferred: Paper labels
Avoid: labels which are strongly glued onto glass.

Inks and direct printing

Do: Inks that are non-toxic and follow EUPIA guidelines.
Avoid: Any other direct printing (unless proven not to be an issue for the recycling process)

Colour

Preferred: Transparent clear and green.
Difficult in recycling: Other colours, opaque and metallic bottles.
Don't: no black.

Secondary package

Do: Fit for purpose, if the glass is redesigned, check if the box needs an update