

How to improve the recyclability of Thermoform PET trays

Tray

Do: light weighting.

Use R-PET if possible.

Don't: packaging that underperforms, so the product is lost. Packaging smaller than 5 cm in diameter, or larger than 5 L in volume.

Absorption tissue

Preferred: integrated in the tray design

Otherwise: use little glue that releases easily in recycling

Lid/seal medium

Best: lidding film with polyester coating

Difficult in recycling: PE laminate

Avoid: PET-seals

Colour

Preferred: transparent, clear.

Avoid: opaque colours, dark colours.

Difficult in sorting: black.



Barrier layers

Do: PET has high barrier properties, check if extra barriers are needed

Difficult in recycling: nylon and EVOH

Don't: avoid using multi-layers unless necessary.

Labels

Do: use small and easy to release labels. (Water or alkali soluble in 60-80°C, wash off self-adhesives).

Avoid: direct printing

Don't: use labels and sleeves bigger than 50% (with volumes less than 500ml), or 70% (with volumes more than 500 ml) of the packaging surface.

TIP:

Consider no label on the tray, use a non-coated carton cover (check with a LCA)

Secondary package

Do: fit for purpose, if the tray is redesigned, check if the box needs an update too.

More information?

www.plasticsrecyclers.eu

www.petcore-europe.org