

Design 4 Recycling

General guidelines

Introduction

- Goal: putting forward a **recycling solution for 100% of household packaging** placed on the Belgian market.
- Take account of the current collection and sorting facilities in Belgium and the possibilities in terms of sustainable recycling channels available at the moment. This document will be adapted in the future when new collection, sorting or recycling opportunities come up.
- Fost Plus offers its members **workshops and benchmarks on packaging recyclability** and the alternatives available on the market to make a packaging type or group recyclable.
- With the eco-modulation of Green Dot fees, a higher Green Dot fee is usually paid for less recyclable packaging than for recyclable packaging.

Use single-material and single-layer packaging

Avoid packaging composed of several layers of different, inseparable materials



Make the packaging recyclable



Give preference to **single-material** packaging (e.g. 100% plastic or 100% cardboard packaging)



Improve the quality of the recycled material



Give preference to **single-layer** packaging (e.g. 100% PE or 100% PET)

Avoid black, dark-coloured or opaque packaging

- Choose non-coloured packaging (natural colour of the packaging).
- Avoid black or dark colours for packaging made of glass and plastic.
- If this is not possible, give preference to colours that cover as little of the packaging surface as possible.
- Recycling markets are being sought for opaque PET bottles and containers for food purposes.



Ensure that the packaging layers can be separated

1. Pull tab with perforations



2. Separation plastic laminated film from cardboard (ex. 1)



2. Separation plastic laminated film from cardboard (ex. 2)



3. On-pack communication



4. Little adhesive used
→ paper and aluminium layer
can be separated easily



Specific case of cartons and drinks cartons

- For cartons, use packaging made of at least 85% cellulose fibres. Avoid double coating. To ensure that the fibres can be properly recovered, water must be able to reach them.
- For drinks cartons, give preference to the simplest shapes with as few additional components as possible (smallest possible plastic lids and bodies, for example).

Specific case of “bioplastics”

- Give preference to biosourced packaging such as bio-PE (sachets, rigid containers, tubs, etc.), bio-PET (bottles, etc.) or paper – cardboard. These forms of packaging can be recycled in the flows corresponding to the material.
- Avoid the use of compostable materials in packaging. There is currently no sorting solution enabling them to be recycled. They may not be put in the organic fractions collected from households, either.

Labels and sleeves

- Use sleeves or labels that cover a maximum of 70% of the packaging surface (containers > 50cl) or 50% (containers < 50cl).
- If a full sleeve is necessary, add perforations that tear easily and add clear, visible messages encouraging consumers to separate the sleeve from the bottle or container.
- Use labels that can easily be removed from the packaging and that do not break up into tiny pieces during washing.



Barriers, glues and adhesives, inks and pigments

- Use the right quantity of barrier necessary to protect the product.
- Avoid using barrier substances containing chloride derivatives (PVC, PVDC) and aluminium layers sandwiched between the other layers of the packaging.
- Give preference to barrier materials such as SiO_x, AlO_x or EVOH at less than 5% of the weight of the packaging.
- Keep the quantities of glue and adhesive used to a minimum. Give preference to water-soluble glues or those that do not break up into small particles.
- Optimise the quantities of ink used and do not use colours that are too bright.
- Avoid printing directly on plastic packaging. Give preference to printing on removable labels (see previous page). Direct laser printing is recommended as a replacement of the ink.

Link with Green Dot fees

- The green dots are calculated in such a way that each type of recycled packaging material covers the cost of its recycling chain. This means that a lower green dot fee applies for packaging materials that are easy to collect, sort and recycle than for packaging materials that are difficult to sort and recycle. In addition, for packaging that cannot be recycled or that disrupts the sorting and/or recycling process, disruptive packaging rates are applied.

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