

P – PET

Plastic bottles known as PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) containers are an increasingly popular packaging format providing reliable protection. They are re-sealable - and so ideal for people on the move who need to stay hydrated, and they are transparent – enabling consumers to see the drink that they are buying. However, it is very important to observe manufacturer's storage recommendations.

PET containers are 100% recyclable and PET is the most recycled material in Europe. The weight of the average PET bottle has reduced by 50% over the past 10 years. PET bottles can include up to 50% recycled material for general use.

PET is recovered through the packaging recovery systems, supported by the industry. The EU average recovery rate for used PET is around 40% with the individual recovery systems of some member states achieving as much as 80%.

This sorted post-consumer PET undergoes an appropriate processing to become a raw material. This includes crushing, washing and etc. PET flakes are then used as a raw material for a whole range of products from shirts and textiles to carpets and clothes. The demand for rPET for textile application decreased from 39.3% in 2011 to 26.4% in 2014 and is no longer a major end-used on the market. In Europe the share of rPET bottle-to-bottle application is growing: from 25.3% in 2011 to 29.8% in 2014.