

UK Packaging preferred materials and formats guidelines 2026 – Own branded and Branded.

Version: PM08
Date: 020226

Red - Prohibited

Not to be used as customers cannot easily recycle



Materials

Compostable/PLA & biodegradable plastics
Oxy/Oxo degradable plastics
Polystyrene – expanded and rigid
PVC
PVdC
Water soluble plastics
MDF
Waxed & siliconised paper

Formats & Designs

Rigid black plastic
Expanded/ foamed/density modified plastic, except EPP
Complex laminates using aluminium layers for decoration
Hi/mid-cones
Plastic straws & cutlery
Glitter
Paper/board with plastic laminated on both sides
Paper/board with non-paper content >15% by weight²
Composite drums
Packaging with batteries

Amber - Restricted

Agreement for use required – only to be used if approved the Tesco packaging team



EPR RAM¹ Reds and Ambers not listed, to be discussed with Tesco packaging team

Materials

NIR black HDPE (non-food grade)
Complex laminates
Foil laminated paper
Barrier papers
Bio-based polymers
PET flexible films
Wood
Ceramics
Masterbatch containing carbon black
New material

Formats & Designs

Fibre based composites
Shrink sleeves
Mixed material spouted pouch
Expanded PP (EPP)
Security/RFID stock tagging on plastic packaging
Small components less than 40mm x 40mm
New formats

**CONTACT THE PACKAGING TEAM -
packaging.team@tesco.com**

Green - Preferred

Preferred for recycling via kerbside or store



Materials

Glass
PET (Rigid)
Polyethylene
Mono PE or PP flexible film
Polypropylene
Steel & aluminium
Sustainably sourced
Cardboard & paper
Non siliconised glassine

Formats & Designs

Paper/board with single side plastic lamination
Paper/board with non-paper content <5% by weight² (incl. plastic windows)
Mono material spouted pouch

1. EPR RAM = UK Extended Producer Responsibilities Recyclability Assessment Methodology
2. Non-separable as defined in EPR RAM.



Packaging data MUST be provided to our packaging data partner, Valpak