



Borealis packaging solutions are making everyday life easier

Polyolefin Packaging Design 10 Codes of Conduct for Design for Recyclability



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Key Overarching Codes

While there are many aspects of plastic packaging design that make packaging “recycling-ready”, we have identified three key overarching codes of conduct when designing for the function (such as preservation, safety and wastage) of the packaging:

01

Use as few different polymer types, components and materials as possible in the design of the overall packaging. This applies to all packaging components such as the body, closures (caps, liners seals), lidding and any other additional components.

02

Make it easy to strip and/or wash-off all decoration (such as labels, sleeves, adhesives, printing and inks) from the main functional part of the packaging.

03

By no means, should packaging designed according to the DfR Codes impact the preservation/protection of the food or product, however do ensure that the requirement is really necessary and not over-engineering.

01

Use PE or PP whenever possible to form mono-material flexible or rigid packaging body.

05

Use aluminium foil as a barrier layer only when it can be easily separated from the pack for aluminium recycling..

08

Use as little surface space as possible for printing or labelling on the pack.

02

Use transparent, clear or white, for the main body of the pack.

06

Follow specific density guidelines when selecting pack components, including labels, sleeves and metallisation.

09

Use light-coloured, non-gassing inks for essential on-pack information.

03

Design the package in such a way that it can be fully emptied after use.

07

Design labels, sleeves and other on-pack printing in such a way that they can be easily separated from the main pack body. For both PE and PP packs, use the same polymer and same colour for the entire pack – body, caps, closures and labels.

10

Ensure that when paper is designed in combination with plastics on a single pack, it must be separable and separated from the main plastic body by the end user in order to access the contents.

04

Use compatible and separable combinations of polymer types, barrier layers, dyes and adhesives