

Product Packaging Guidance.

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Introduction

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Supplier Guidance

This document provides *You*, as a supplier of Currys/Currlys Sourcing/Currlys Group instruction on which materials *You* should use for *Our* product packaging. We have considered the environmental impact of each material and the ease of disposal by *Our Customers*.

The document uses colour coding; **Red** indicates materials to avoid, **Amber/Yellow** can be accepted if absolutely necessary, and **Green** indicates preferred materials. We ask that *You* move towards supplying only packaging using the **Green** materials, as these are **Easily Recyclable** and/or **Home Compostable**, sustainably sourced and/or contain **Recycled Content**. These lists will be reviewed regularly, and we will notify *You* of any changes.

It is important to understand the difference between:

Recyclable, Easily Recyclable and Recycled Content

- **Recyclable** means the material must be able to be collected, sorted, reprocessed and manufactured into a new product.
- **Easily recyclable** means the material can be collected and processed as part of the majority of Our UK Customers' kerbside waste collection.
- **Recycled Content** means that the item includes recycled material – please see pages 7 and 8 for further information.

Compostable and Home Compostable

- **Compostable** means the material can be broken down into water, carbon dioxide and other materials within a defined period of time. This is normally through industrial processes and requires these materials to be identified and segregated from normal plastics. They are **Red** and should be avoided.
- **Home Compostable** (see page 8) this means the material can fully decompose in soil so Our Customers can compost at home or dispose in household food waste collections. Only materials certified as Home Compostable can be accepted as **Green**.

Product Packaging Matrix

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Preferred Materials



Materials to use only if cannot be avoided



Materials to avoid/seek alternatives if already used

Aluminium

Cardboard/Fibres, Paper, Pulp, Tissue Paper sustainably sourced/with recycled content and no lamination/film – UV/matt varnish permitted

Home Compostable Plastic – bag/film only with EN13432 certification and Home compostable certification e.g. OK Compost Home

Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)/ High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) /PE Film (excluding foam) with $\geq 30\%$ recycled content

Recycled Polyethylene terephthalate (rPET) with $\geq 30\%$ recycled content (clear rPET preferred)

Steel

Wood sustainably sourced

If you cannot package the product using materials on green list, we prefer you to select the materials below:

Cardboard/Fibres, Paper, Pulp, Tissue Paper legally harvested source, no lamination

Wood legally harvested source

Where it is not possible to use materials above, those listed below can be used but please consider alternatives:

Cardboard/Fibres, Paper, Pulp, Tissue Paper legally harvested source, with lamination

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS/Polyfoam) White only

Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)/ High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/PE film (excluding foam) with $<30\%$ recycled content

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET/aPET) with $<30\%$ recycled content

Polyolefin (POF)

Polypropylene (PP)/Correx (excluding foam)

Oriented Polypropylene (OPP)

Silica Gel

Black plastic (any type)

Cardboard/Fibres, Paper, Pulp, Tissue Paper not traceable – with/without lamination

Biodegradable (e.g. PLA)/Degradable/ Compostable Plastics (excluding Home)

Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA)/Poly ethylene-vinyl acetate (PEVA)

Expanded Polyethylene (EPE)

Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Polyfoam any colour other than white

Extruded Polystyrene (XPS)(Styrofoam)

Nylon Polyamide (PA)

Polycarbonate (PC)

Polyester fabric (PCDT)

Polyethylene Foam/Closed-cell Foam

Polymethyl methacrylate/Acrylic (PMMA)

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

Other biodegradable materials

Rubber (synthetic)

Velcro (inc. Nylon & Polyester)

Wood (not traceable)



For any materials not listed, please discuss with your Currys Sourcing Product Manager.

Product Packaging Guidance:

The following materials are Preferred

Materials

Aluminium/Steel

Cardboard/Fibres, Paper, Pulp, Tissue Paper
sustainably sourced and/or with recycled content; no lamination/film - UV/matt varnish permitted

Home Compostable Plastics
EN13432 compliant and Home Compostable certification - bag/film only

Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)/ High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/PE Film
(excluding foam)
with ≥ 30% recycled content

Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate (rPET)
with ≥ 30% recycled content (clear preferred)

Wood
sustainably sourced

Examples of Use

○ Nails, Staples

○ Export cartons; Inner boxes; Carton dividers; Gift boxes/Product boxes; Scratch protection for gift boxes; Packing for inside products; Moulded inside box protection

○ Bags used to cover product or accessories to provide scratch/dust protection

○ Bags used to cover product or accessories to provide scratch/dust protection

○ Giftbox clamshell/blister; Inner trays; Inserts

○ Wooden Block for MDA/White Goods



Examples provided should not be seen as exclusive. If you are unable to use any of the materials in the table, see next page.

Product Packaging Guidance:

If you cannot package the product using materials on the Preferred list, you should select from the materials below:

Materials

Cardboard/Fibres, Paper, Pulp, Tissue Paper
legally harvested source, with no lamination

Wood
legally harvested source

Examples of Use

Export cartons; Inner boxes; Carton dividers; Gift boxes/Product boxes; Scratch protection for gift boxes; Packing for inside products; Moulded inside box protection

Wooden block for MDA/White goods

Where it is not possible to use materials above, the materials below may be used if there is no viable alternative:

Materials

Cardboard/Fibres, Paper, Pulp, Tissue Paper
legally harvested source, with lamination

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)(Polyfoam)
White only

Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)/ High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/PE film
(excluding foam)
with <30% recycled content

Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET/aPET)
with <30% recycled content

Oriented Polypropylene (OPP)

Polyolefin (POF)

Polypropylene (PP)/Correx (excluding foam)

Silica Gel

Examples of Use

Export cartons; Inner boxes; Carton dividers; Gift boxes/Product boxes; Scratch protection for gift boxes; Packing for inside products; Moulded inside box protection

Foam cover; Panels for product protection

Bags used to cover product or accessories

Giftbox clamshell/blister; Inner trays; Inserts

Adhesive tape for export/inner cartons

Battery shrink wrap

Board for Bottom Protection (MDA); Hanging Tag/Hook; Banding Straps; Non-woven bags

Desiccant bags/Sachets/Cushions/Packets



Examples provided should not be seen as exclusive. Materials on the next page should be **Avoided** and if you already use them, you should actively look for alternatives.

Product Packaging Guidance:

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The following materials should be avoided or, if already in use, alternatives should be sought out

Materials

Examples of Use

Black Plastic
any type

○ Corner protection, Tags/hooks, Ties, Foam protection

Cardboard/Fibres, Paper, Pulp, Tissue Paper
not traceable; with/without lamination

○ Export cartons; Inner boxes; Carton dividers; Gift boxes/Product boxes; Scratch protection for gift boxes; Packing for inside products; Moulded inside box protection

Biodegradable/Degradable/Compostable Plastics (excluding Home)
May contain: Polylactic Acid (PLA), Polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), Polybutyrate Adipate Terephthalate (PBAT)

○ Bags used to cover product or accessories

Ethylene Vinyl Acetate(EVA) / Polyethylene Vinyl Acetate (PEVA)

○ Foam sheets

Expanded Polyethylene (EPE)

○ Foam covers; Panels

Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)

○ Foam covers; Panels

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)
Any colour other than white

○ Foam covers; Panels

Extruded Polystyrene (XPS)(Styrofoam)

○ Foam covers

Nylon Polyamide (PA)

○ Cable ties

Other biodegradable materials

○ Bags

Polycarbonate (PC)

○ CD trays

Polyester fabric (PCDT)

○ Gift box 'ribbon' tags; Webbing

Polyethylene Foam/ Closed-cell Foam

○ Foam paper; Foam Bag

Polymethyl methacrylate/Acrylic (PMMA)

○ Cardboard coating, Protection boards for MDA

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

○ Tags/hooks; Corner protectors; T-shaped blocks; Battery wrap

Rubber (synthetic)

○ Circles for large appliance protection

Velcro (inc. Nylon & Polyester)

○ Gift box inserts

Wood not traceable

○ Wooden block for MDA/White goods



If you are using any of the materials listed here, please seek alternatives listed on the previous pages.

Should you encounter any difficulties finding alternatives/need guidance or wish to use materials that are not listed, please discuss with your Currys Sourcing Product Manager.

Further Guidance

Timber/Card/Paper

As a minimum, you are expected to ensure that timber/card/paper packaging is from:

‘Legally harvested sources’

The timber (source for paper/card) is produced in compliance with the laws of the country where it is harvested, or where applicable, exported legally from the country of harvest. Timber accompanied by a valid licence ([FLEGT](#) or [CITES](#)) is considered legal, and in all other cases, due diligence is expected to be conducted.

For suppliers in China, Article 65 of the new Forest Law (enforced July 1 2020) bans the buying, transporting, and/or processing of illegally sourced timber and requires processing companies to establish a data record of raw materials and products. Suppliers should ensure those providing their product packaging comply with this law.

We also encourage you to use timber/card/paper products that are ‘From Sustainable Sources’ and/or ‘With Recycled Content’ (for paper/card)

‘From sustainable sources’

The source of the packaging must be legally harvested and come from a forest that is managed to ensure harm to the ecosystem is minimised, and the ecosystem, biodiversity, productivity of the forest is maintained. To prove this, evidence of the product’s traceability is expected.

These products may also be certified by third-party organisations such as:

- [Forest Stewardship Council](#) – (FSC) certified
- [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) – (PEFC) certified

‘With recycled content’

The paper/card either contains all recycled material or a percentage of recycled material. To prove this, the material may be certified by a third party e.g. FSC Mix (certified as part recycled) or FSC Recycled (100% recycled).

Plastics

If plastic packaging is required, we prefer you to use specified plastics found in the **Preferred** table:

Compostable Bags/Films

Any compostable bags/films must meet both criteria:

- Comply with the European Standard for Compostability [EN 13432](#)
Packaging must pass all 5 tests for 'compostability'. Independent certification bodies offer assessment of packaging and with this the packaging supplier should be able to provide a 7P or Sxx code (dependent on certifier);
- Be 'home compostable'
The product (e.g. bag) material supplied must be certified. For example, TÜV Austria's '[OK Compost HOME](#)'

Plastic with recycled content

For plastics to contain 'recycled content', the process of manufacturing the new material must use plastic that has been recycled.

Plastics that contain recycled content are not necessarily recyclable (see page 1), however it is possible to have a material that is both recyclable with recycled content e.g. PET with ≥30% recycled content.

For rPET/LDPE/HDPE

Must contain a minimum of 30% recycled plastic content. Recycled Content (ISO 14021:2016 Definition):

*...the proportion, by mass, of recycled material in a product or packaging.
Only pre-consumer and post-consumer materials shall be considered as recycled content.*

Pre-consumer

Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it. Recycled plastic from 'pre-consumer materials' is only acceptable if it has been treated by a separate reprocessing facility.

Post-consumer

Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain.

The calculation for this is:

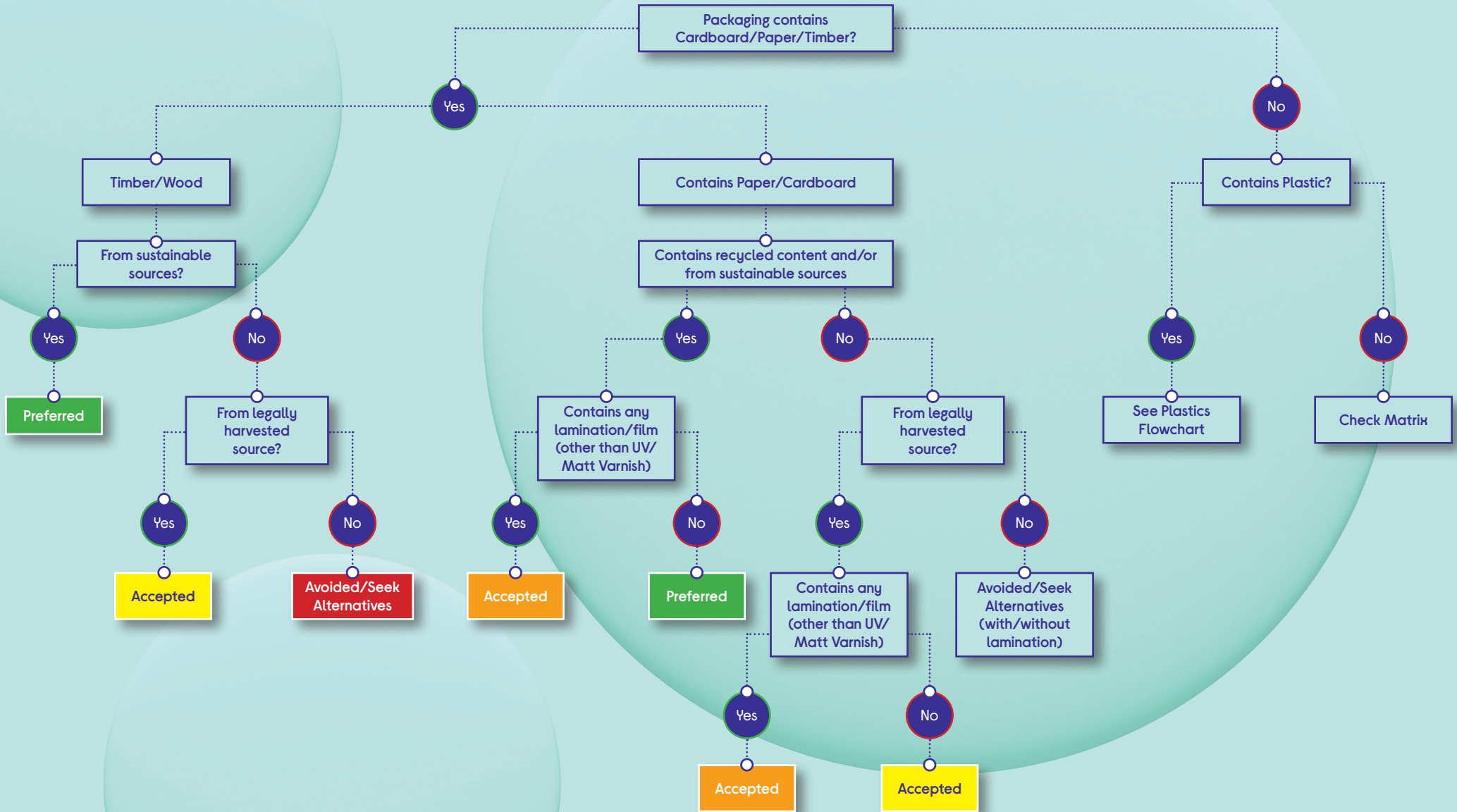
$$\text{Recycled Plastic Content \%} = \frac{\text{Mass of Recycled Plastic}}{\text{Mass of All Plastic Inputs}} \times 100$$

For more information, see p.12-23 of the [UK plastic packaging tax consultation](#) and the latest UK Government [guidance on the Plastic Packaging Tax](#), especially section 5.3 that provides examples of records that can be used to evidence recycled plastic content of plastic packaging.

Process Flow



Timber/Card/Paper



Process Flow



Plastics

