COMPARING SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING OPTIONS

Sustainability is top of mind for today's consumers, and savvy brands will leverage primary packaging to tell their story. Every brand will have unique goals. At TricorBraun, we help our customers navigate this journey by evaluating various materials and methods in order to provide the most sustainable packaging solution for their product.

DISCLAIMER: *This is meant to be a general guide. Pricing scale is extremely relative to the size of the package, tooling, and any material adders for compatibility. Contact us for the most up-to-date information.*

LEAST EXPENSIVE → MOST EXPENSIVE

MATERIAL SOLUTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS
NON-PLASTIC	
PAPER	• Breaks down faster and is compostable in some forms • Can be 100% recyclable if no coatings or films are required for the formula
PCR (POST-CONSUMER RESIN)	
PET	• Easily recyclable • Natural color has gray tint • Odor can be present
PE	• Maintains barrier properties of virgin PE • Limited supply available in natural color • Odor can be present
PP	• Limited supply • Works best with dark colorant • Odor can be present
NON-PLASTIC	
GLASS	• 100% recyclable and reusable • Fragile and heavier to ship
ALUMINUM	• 100% recyclable, durable and ideal for reuse • Requires higher MOQs • Limited supply
CHEMICALLY RECYCLED RESINS	
	• 100% recycled content • Comparable in quality and color to virgin resin
ALTERNATIVE RESINS	
OCEAN BOUND	• Reduces plastic waste bound for the ocean • Limited supply available • Cost is typically 2X virgin resin
BIO-RESINS	• Reduces use of petroleum-based resins • Can be added in increments as low as 5% • >5% bio-resin coded as #7 (non-recyclable), exceptions exist for PE and PET • Requires extensive stability and compatibility testing • Cost is typically 3X virgin resin
BIODEGRADABLE ADDITIVES	
FLEXIBLES	• Can improve biodegradability or compostability • Low durability and barrier properties • >5% bio-resin coded as #7 (non-recyclable), exceptions exist for PE and PET • Supply and scalability can be a limiting factor
HDPE	
LDPE	
PP	

OTHER SOLUTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS
MONO-MATERIAL	• Made with 1 resin, or a combination of resins from the same family • Optimal for single-stream recycling • Limited supply available for multi-component products
ALL PLASTIC	• All components made of plastic, but resins types can differ • No metal • May be easier to recycle than mixed-material products (validate with testing) • Pricing can be higher than mixed-materials products • Major retailers are trending towards all-plastic requirements
LIGHTWEIGHTED	• Reduces unnecessary plastic • More efficient to ship • Testing required to assure package integrity
REFILLABLE & REUSABLE	• Reduces single-use packaging materials • Should be easy to clean
DESIGN OPTIMIZATION	• Improves pack out • Reduces shipping emissions • Increases filling line efficiency
OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS	• Optimize logistics to reduce carbon footprint • Reduce downtime and/or waste of unnecessary resources

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