

Storage & Handling Conditions for PET Bottles



Bottle storage conditions such as time, temperature, and humidity can have an effect on PET containers. The exposure and age of a sample can also affect the shrinkage, impact properties, and stress crack resistance of the container.



Storage Time – Use in a First In, First Out system to limit the time stored. Sealed polyethylene plastic bag or lined drums, totes, bins, Gaylord containers, supersacks, or seabulks for long-term storage. The plastic liner will help prevent dust and dirt from entering the bottles.



Storage Temperature – Elevated storage temperatures (above 100°F/38°C) allow empty PET bottles to further shrink, mainly due to relaxation of the oriented and partially oriented regions of the bottle. Extreme temperature conditions (above 131°F/55°C) can cause severe distortion of the amorphous areas of the bottle, including the finish and neck. Provide moderate storage temperature to ensure consistent bottle dimensions and properties.



Surface Contamination – Keep storage area clean, dry, dust, odor, insect, and rodent free. Approve area for food storage. Do not store PET bottles in direct sunlight. Aromatic materials such as spices, solvents, ink, cleaning supplies, and disinfectants should not be stored in the same area as PET bottles.



Shipping Conditions – It is recommended when empty PET bottles are shipped to or through areas where outdoor temperatures may exceed 90°F/32°C a temperature controlled container or trailer capable of maintaining a temperature of 80°F/27°C or lower be used.

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