

FAQ black PE or OPP films (27/4/22)

Is it possible to sort and recycle post-consumer black PE or black OPP films?

Sortability:

There are 2 streams for films in Belgian sorting centers: PE Films and Other Films. NIR technology is used to detect PE Films among the films stream and put them apart. The remaining films go to the "Other Films" fraction. Both black PE and black OPP films will end up in the "Other Films" because black printed films (based on carbon black) are not recognized by NIR detectors.

Recyclability:

The bales of "Other Films" are recycled into applications like garden furniture, traffic signalisation tools etc. (www.ecoo.eu)

But it is important to mention that the presence of black films in the stream decreases the value of the recyclate due to the dark discolouration.

In conclusion, it is possible to sort and recycle black PE and OPP films but it is recommended to use light coloured films when possible, in order to obtain recyclate of higher value for circular economy.

Is there a preference in colours for recycling purposes?

Dark coloured recyclates generally have a significantly lower value than the uncoloured or light-coloured recyclates.

Is there an advise on the usage of inks for recycling purposes?

Try to keep the amount of inks as low as possible.