



FAQ food contact applications with recycling of polyolefins (27/4/22)

Are post-consumer polyolefins recycled into food-contact applications?

This is currently not the case.

This is related to the European Food Safety Authority rules limiting the use of mechanically recycled plastics into food-contact applications, based on challenge test and scientific opinion.

For polyolefins, the stream can be used for food-contact only if the input flow contains maximum 1% of non-food packaging. The content of non-food packaging in post-consumer bales of polyolefins is higher.

There might be solutions to allow food-contact applications for polyolefins in the future such as e.g. chemical recycling dividing food and non-food packaging. But these technologies are not operational yet and it will also depend on decisions from the European Commission.