



The Association of
Plastic Recyclers



BALING PHARMACY BOTTLES CASE STUDY

GROCERY CHAIN PROFILE

- 300+ conventional supermarkets
- Rigid plastics collected at store level and backhauled to Distribution Center
- Also recycles OCC, Paper, Film Plastics, Waxed OCC

RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLED

- Primarily pharmacy stock bottles, and some customer vials
- Reuse most floral buckets, recycle when unusable

HOW PHARMACY RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLING SYSTEM WORKS

1. Stock bottles and vials collected, without caps, in sealed totes. Caps collected separately in bags.
2. Filled totes taken from pharmacy to dedicated backroom pallet
3. Totes placed on pallet and returned to central recycling center with other recyclables (baled OCC & bagged plastics film)
4. Stock/vial bottles baled in horizontal baler at central recycling center
5. Caps collected/marketed loose
6. 800 to 1,100 pound bales, cube out truck at 35,000 pounds - 38,000 pounds
7. Truckloads of baled pharmacy bottles hauled to market

ECONOMICS

- 60,000+ pharmacy bottles (stock & vials) kept out of waste stream weekly
- Revenue from sale of baled bottles, net of transportation cost, helps minimize reverse logistics/backhaul and central baling cost

BENEFITS

- Avoided waste disposal costs
- Reduced waste haul frequency
- New Revenue Opportunity

DRAWBACKS

- Stock bottles must be kept separate from vials at store & recycling center
- Caps, a different resin, must be kept separate