



# cromwell



A GUIDE TO SELECTING  
THE RIGHT FLEX COLLECT BAG

# BAG COLOUR

The Flex Collect trials demonstrated that bag visibility plays an important role in successful flexible plastic collections. Brightly coloured and clearly printed bags helped residents, collection crews and MRF operators quickly identify flexible plastics within existing recycling systems.

The report does not prescribe one universal colour. Instead, it suggests selecting a colour that is highly visible, easily recognised and clearly differentiated from existing local waste streams.

## COLOURS USED IN THE FLEXCOLLECT TRIALS

### TRANSPARENT

Clear bags have previously supported contamination monitoring and material visibility.

### BLUE

Blue bags have previously been used across several co-mingled and source segregated collection trials.

### PURPLE

Purple bags have previously been used where an alternative high visibility colour was required.

Printed instructions on collection bags were found to support participation and improve material quality by clearly communicating:

- Accepted materials
- Presentation instructions
- Bag tying requirements
- Where residents could obtain replacement bags

The report found that printed bags also acted as an ongoing visual reminder to residents, helping reinforce correct recycling behaviour.



MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF)



# BAG STRENGTH

Bag thickness should be selected according to the collection method and operational requirements.

The report found 18 to 20 micron bags were suitable for source segregated collections where bags experience lighter handling and simpler sorting processes. Lower thickness bags were trialled in some systems, however the report notes that 20 micron bags did not withstand full MRF processing in certain co-mingled collection trials.

Around 40 micron bags provided sufficient durability for co-mingled and twin stream collections, where bags are processed through MRFs and exposed to vehicle compaction and mechanical sorting equipment.



# BAG DESIGN

Bag design plays an important role in both resident usability and operational performance.

The FlexCollect report identified securely tied bags as important for maintaining material containment throughout collection and sorting.

Bags without a closure function have an increased risk of flexible plastics escaping into the environment or other recycling streams, creating contamination challenges during collection and processing.

Secure tie handles provide a reliable closure system to help:

- Contain lightweight flexible plastics
- Reduce contamination risks
- Improve collection efficiency
- Protect material quality during transport and sorting





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