

**Evaluation
checklist >>**

PLEASE NOTE:

Yes

No

Answers which do not have a qualitative value.

No

Yes

Yes

No

Answers which represent a **positive** (👍) or **negative** (👎) choice.

The information provided in this checklist is based on general principles; for some specific types of packaging, it may not identify the best solution to facilitate sorting and recycling activities. It is important to evaluate each packaging individually to identify the best solution to meet performance, regulatory and safety requirements while also facilitating sorting and recycling activities.

For further information and details, please contact us at epack@conai.org.

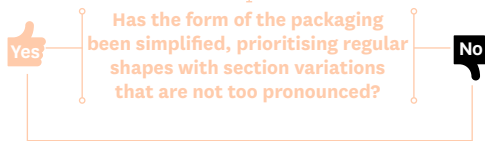
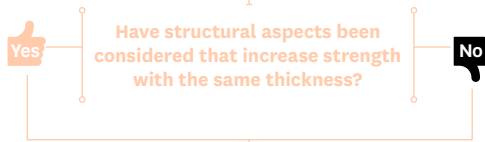
Aspects to consider to make your packaging more easily recyclable

1 STRUCTURAL ASPECTS

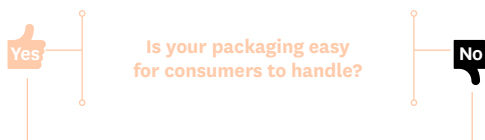
Goal: *Optimise the packaging's structure.*

Minimise the thickness and volume of the packaging as much as possible by avoiding irregular shapes and particularly pronounced section variations, while still meeting its performance and functional requirements.

> **FURTHER READING: 4B**



Choosing solutions that assist users in handling steel packaging not only makes it easier for them to access and consume the product, but also simplifies recycling operations. Designing packaging in a way that makes it easy to separate the components and compact the packages helps to reduce volume in the post-consumption phase.





It is important to ensure the packaging's performance and functional requirements, while at the same time making design choices that minimise environmental impacts. This may include reducing the volume and thickness of the packaging structure. In order to balance material reduction with the need to ensure the container's mechanical strength (for example to aid stacking or logistical operations), the form of the packaging can be altered by modifying its profile geometries, particularly by adding ribs to strengthen the overall structure.

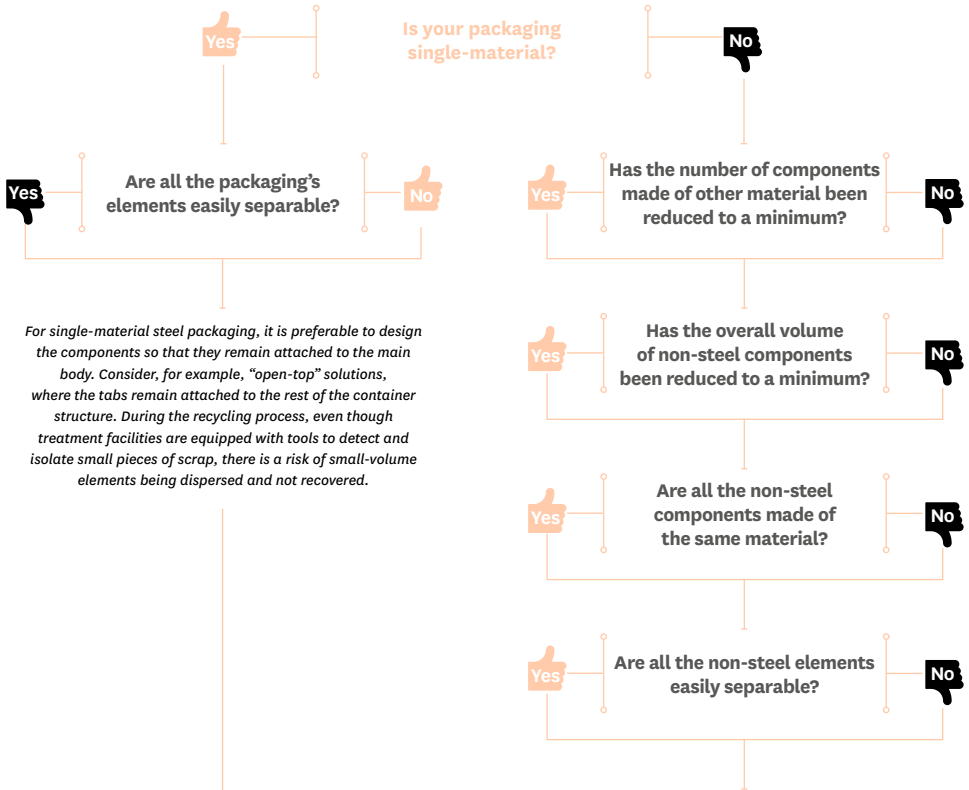
YOU CAN MOVE ON TO SECTION 2 >>

2 COMPONENTS

Goal: Maximise recycling opportunities for both the main body and the components of the packaging.

Use single-material packaging wherever possible. If this is not feasible, keep the number of elements to a minimum and make it easy to separate the components made of materials other than steel.

> **FURTHER READING: 4C**



For single-material steel packaging, it is preferable to design the components so that they remain attached to the main body. Consider, for example, "open-top" solutions, where the tabs remain attached to the rest of the container structure. During the recycling process, even though treatment facilities are equipped with tools to detect and isolate small pieces of scrap, there is a risk of small-volume elements being dispersed and not recovered.

In order to minimise setbacks and optimise the recycling process, we recommend reducing the number of elements and prioritising single-material solutions.

However, in situations where this is impractical, it is essential to design the components in a way that makes them easy for end-users to separate, so they can be easily placed in the correct separate collection bin.

Mixing several materials can compromise recycling, especially when the components are difficult to separate.

For instance, non-removable rigid plastic elements, as in the case of bucket handles, could constitute a potential obstacle to recycling. These elements should therefore be avoided or at least reduced as far as possible by making them easily removable. Communication has a crucial role in educating consumers to recognise the various materials and dispose of them correctly, thereby contributing to more efficient recycling.

Yes Does your packaging include steel closures (capsules, caps)? **No**

For steel closure systems applied to packaging made of other materials, such as cans and glass bottles, we recommend simplifying the shape and reducing the amount of material used. This optimisation will help to minimise possible losses if those elements are not recycled.

Yes Will a paper or polymer label be used to convey information to consumers? **No**

Yes Is the label completely separable from the main body of the packaging? **No**

Labels often remain attached to the main body of the packaging due to the high number of adhesives used. Although cellulosic elements are not problematic for recycling purposes, it is recommended to reduce the number of glue points to make the labels easier to remove, possibly facilitated by the addition of perforations to allow them to be removed more quickly.

Yes Does the label contain information about how to correctly dispose of the label? **No**

Consider adding directions on the packaging to guide the consumer to remove the label and dispose of in the correct recycling category for that material.

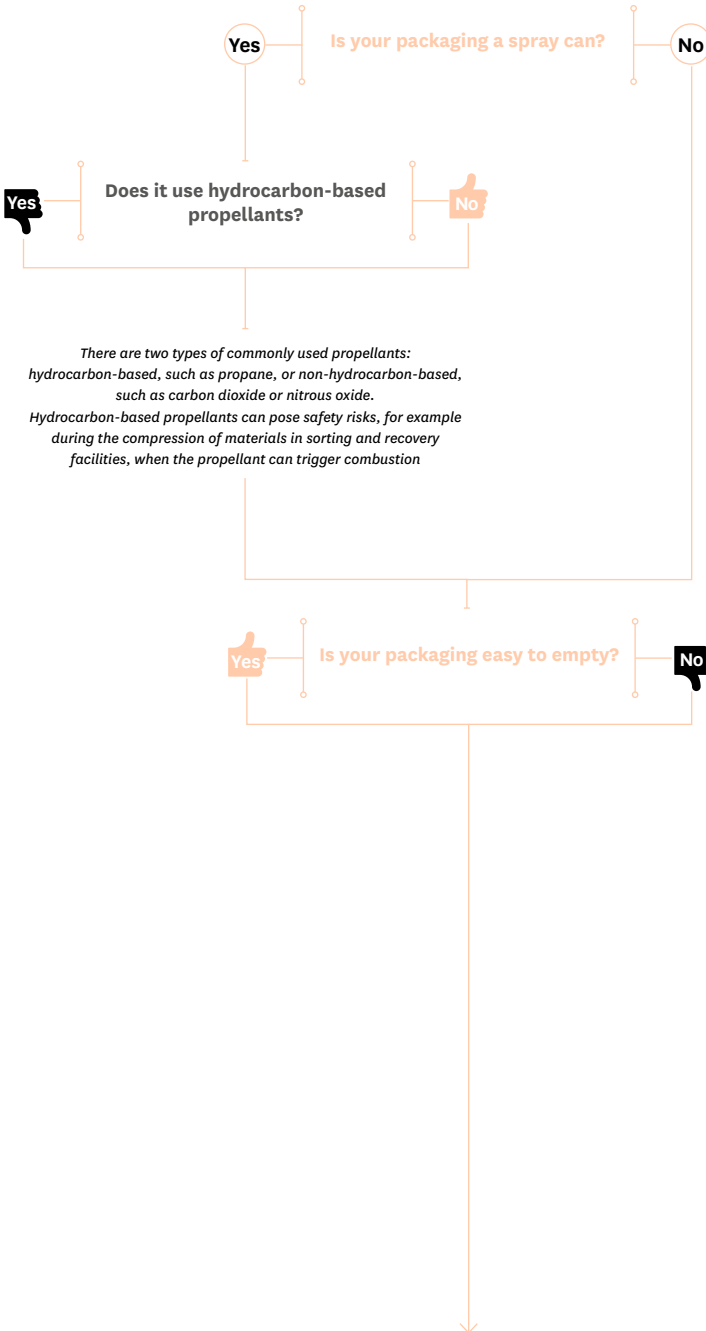
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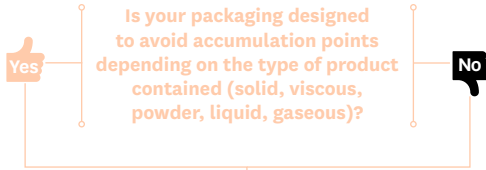
3 RESIDUES AND EMPTYING

Goal: Facilitate complete emptying of the packaging, removing product residues.

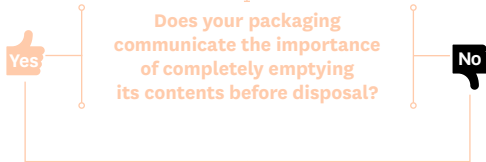
Ensure that the packaging is easy to empty, so that product residue is reduced to a minimum during disposal, especially in the case of hydrocarbon spray cans. Assist users by clearly communicating the correct procedure they should follow when disposing of it..

> FURTHER READING: 4D





Choose structures that make it easy to completely empty the packaging, adopting targeted solutions according to the type of content (liquid, viscous, solid, powder, gaseous). For example, consider using wide mouths and shapes that do not have areas where product can accumulate and be impossible to remove.



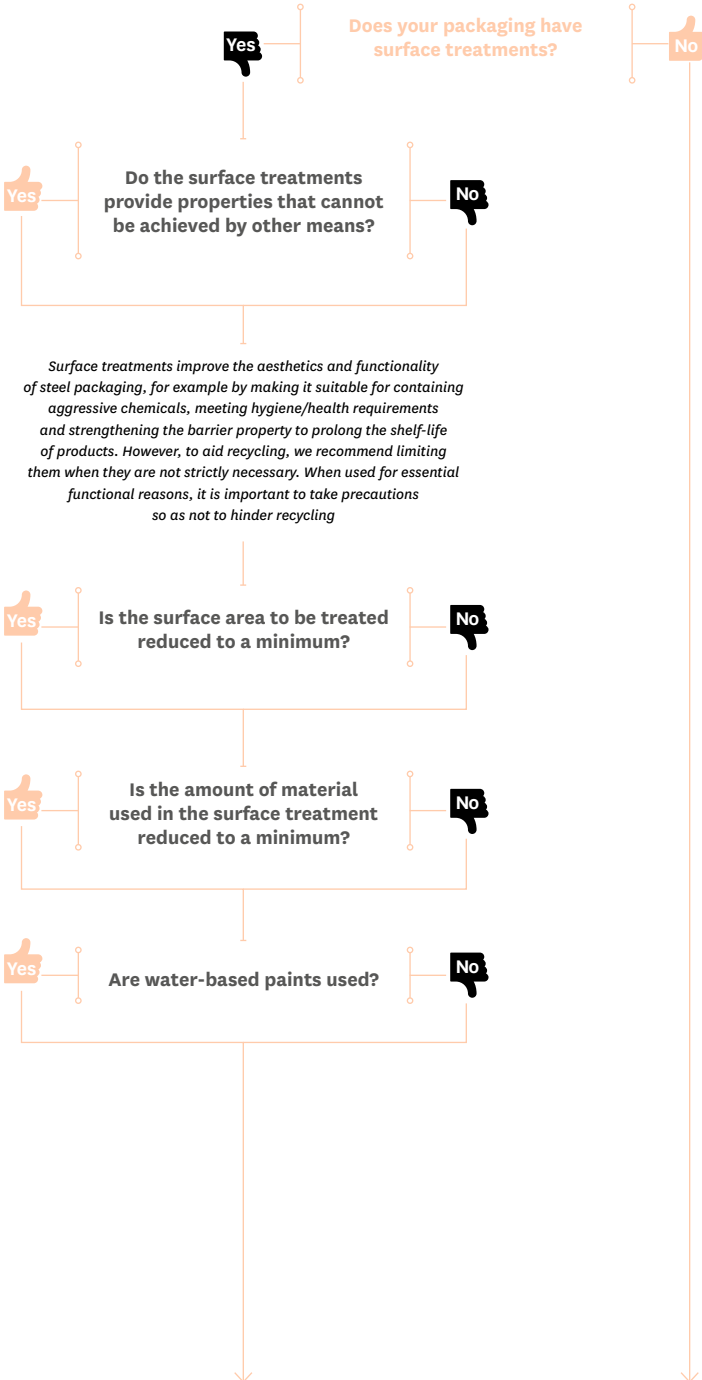
Residues are not a significant obstacle to recycling steel packaging: if the packaging contains minimal quantities of product at the time of disposal, these residues are eliminated during the waste treatment stages, dissolving completely in the material recycling process. However, in order to further optimise the recycling process, we recommend taking measures during the design stage to encourage complete emptying. Targeted design choices – such as wider openings and shapes without hard-to-empty accumulation points – can make it easier to remove the contents from the packaging, especially when the contents are dense and difficult to remove. Particular attention must also be paid to packaging that is disposed of unopened and full, such as in the case of expired foodstuffs. Through effective communication, it is possible to raise awareness and encourage end-users to completely empty the packaging before it is disposed of in separate collection.

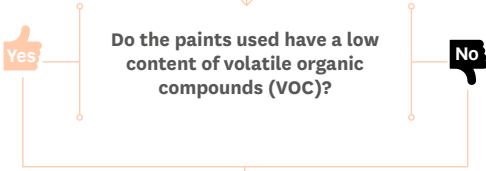
4 SURFACE TREATMENTS

Goal: Limit the environmental impacts associated with surface treatments.

Limit the use of surface treatments if they are not essential for ensuring safety and other performance requirements.

> FURTHER READING: 4E





It is preferable to use water-based lacquers and paints with reduced volatile organic compound (VOC) content, which reduce impacts during the recycling process.



For lacquers and paints, it is recommended to use low-impact coating processes (such as UV/LED coating) whenever possible.

5 COMMUNICATION TO CONSUMERS

Goal: Provide consumers with information that will help them dispose of the packaging in the correct separate collection bin.

Ensure that users receive adequate guidance so they can understand the packaging's parts and materials. Correctly informing consumers about how to properly handle packaging at the end of its useful life is crucial.

> **FURTHER READING: 4F**

