A CIRCULAR CONTAINER FOR EVERY CRUNCH

Food-contact pickle packaging made with 25% PureFive® recycled polypropylene.



The Challenge

Food packaging manufacturers have historically faced a difficult challenge:

- Incorporating recycled content into food-contact packaging
- Maintaining food safety and regulatory compliance
- Preserving package performance in demanding environments
- Meeting growing consumer and regulatory sustainability expectations

For fermented foods such as pickles, containers must withstand:

- Salty brines
- Acidic conditions
- Refrigerated storage
- Extended shelf-life requirements

Key Question:
Can recycled content be added to food-contact packaging without sacrificing safety, performance, or consumer experience?

The Partnership

PURECYCLE™

- Dissolution recycling technology
- Produces PureFive® recycled polypropylene

IPL Schoeller™

- Sustainable packaging design & manufacturing
- Developed container & lid system

CLEVELAND KITCHEN

- Sustainable food brand
- Commercialized the solution

Together, the partners developed a commercially viable pickle package containing 25% recycled polypropylene.

The Solution

PUREFIVE® RECYCLED POLYPROPYLENE

PureCycle's patented dissolution recycling process removes:

- Color
- Odor
- Contaminants
- Non-polypropylene materials
- Other impurities

The result is a food-contact suitable recycled polypropylene that performs similarly to virgin resin while delivering the benefits of recycled content.

COMMERCIAL PACKAGING AT SCALE

IPL Schoeller converted the recycled resin into a durable food-contact package designed for refrigerated fermented foods.

The final package:

- Contains 25% recycled polypropylene
- Meets food-contact requirements
- Maintains package performance
- Preserves product quality and consumer experience
- Is commercially available today

Project Results

25% Recycled Content - In both tubs and lids.

Commercially Launched - Available on store shelves today.

Food-Contact Suitable - Designed for direct food-contact applications.

Built for Tough Conditions - Engineered for fermented foods and brine-based products.

Scalable Platform - Creates a pathway for broader recycled-content adoption in food packaging.

What This Project Proves

Recycled content can work in food packaging: The project demonstrates that meaningful levels of recycled polypropylene can be successfully incorporated into direct food-contact packaging.

Sustainability and Performance Can Coexist: The package meets the demanding requirements of fermented food applications while delivering measurable recycled content.

A Practical Path Forward: This solution provides a real-world example for brands preparing for future sustainability goals and recycled-content requirements.

Commercial Validation Matters: This is not a pilot project. The product is already on store shelves, proving the concept at commercial scale.

Opportunity for Expansion: Success in a demanding application creates opportunities for recycled polypropylene in additional food categories and packaging formats.

Looking Forward

The Cleveland Kitchen package demonstrates how:

DISSOLUTION RECYCLING
+
PACKAGING EXPERTISE
+
BRAND ADOPTION
=
CIRCULAR FOOD PACKAGING SOLUTIONS



As sustainability expectations continue to evolve, this project provides a practical framework for expanding recycled content across the food packaging industry.

About PureCycle

PureCycle Technologies LLC., a subsidiary of PureCycle Technologies, Inc., holds a global license for the only patented dissolution recycling technology, developed by The Procter & Gamble Company (P&G), that is designed to transform polypropylene plastic waste (designated as #5 plastic) into a continuously renewable resource. The unique purification process removes color, odor, and other impurities from #5 plastic waste resulting in our PureFive® resin that can be recycled and reused multiple times, changing our relationship with plastic.
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About IPL SCHOELLER

IPL Schoeller is a global provider of sustainable packaging solutions, serving customers across food, consumer, environmental, agriculture, and industrial markets. Through innovative packaging design, advanced materials, and circular economy practices, IPL Schoeller helps customers improve supply chain efficiency while reducing environmental impact. With decades of expertise in rigid plastic packaging and a commitment to sustainability, IPL Schoeller continues to develop packaging solutions that support the transition to a more circular economy. Visit: www.iplschoeller.com/us

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ABOUT CLEVELAND KITCHEN

Cleveland Kitchen is an industry-leading producer of fresh fermented foods, bringing bold flavor and gut-health benefits to consumers nationwide. Founded on a commitment to simple ingredients, craft fermentation, and culinary innovation, Cleveland Kitchen has helped redefine the fermented foods category through products that combine exceptional taste with functional nutrition. Today, the company's fresh fermented sauerkrauts and kimchis, and lightly fermented pickles and pickled vegetables are available in more than 20,000 retail locations across the United States. Visit: www.clevelandkitchen.com/

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