

# BEVERAGE PACKAGING

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INNOVATION

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# Better additives and even more sustainability

**REPI** produces liquid-form colourants and additives for plastics. The company has a global footprint – with operations in Italy, the US, UK and Russia – and is adept at tailoring its products to every type of client need, including requests for recyclability, protecting the flavour of a drink or enhancing aesthetics.

One of the main challenges facing the world today is how to save the resources of the planet, or better yet, how to use them intelligently and responsibly to secure a sustainable future. This includes the need to boost recycling rates. Resin, colour and additive manufacturers play a crucial role in evolving their know-how to provide solutions that still satisfy brands, markets managers and designers, packaging manufacturers and consumers.

REPI specialises in liquid colours and additives for many plastics that are widely used in the packaging industry. Colour is definitely a winning component in making packaging and brands appealing, recognisable and unique. However, colour alone might not be enough. Food and beverage variety, the shape and size of containers, and the shelf lives required by brands may need special additive solutions to enhance protection, performance, aesthetics and recyclability. The company has a series of liquid additives and special solutions to cater to such needs.

## Popular additives make for better bottles

Anti Yellow is the fastest-growing additive family for REPI. These additives come in liquid form and are used in recycled polyethylene terephthalate (rPET) resin production and the rPET packaging injection-moulding process. With PET that is produced on bottle-to-bottle recycling lines, these additives are dosed from 0.005% to 0.050%, and can perfectly neutralise the slight yellow-grey-green shade of rPET in preforms to restore the material's original appearance.

The group's IV Enhancer is also widely used in the field of rPET, where it improves the physical and mechanical characteristics of bottles.

These 'process additives' are closely followed by REPI's Blowing Additive, a product that improves and controls the absorption of infrared in the blowing stage of production, enabling clients to reduce blowing temperatures. At the same time, the blowing equipment works smoothly by removing unplanned stops and increasing the productivity of blown bottles per hour. From the aesthetic point of view, this additive hardly affects the colour of a transparent preform. Customers who have access to fast reheat resin might even prefer to work with standard PET and Blowing Additive, as they enjoy the flexibility in production and having the ability to modify the additive's dose. REPI also gives clients the option of adding colour to the additive inside: some of the most popular colours include dark amber or green for beer preforms, blue for mineral water bottles and white, which has been developed for milk monolayer preforms.



There are a range of shades for each beverage.

REPI's Process Aid additives are essential for preventing preforms and bottles from sticking to one another during the blowing stage of production. With this product, up to an additional 10% of preforms can be stored in a box, creating better storage conditions and reducing transport costs. In addition, preforms remain transparent and have fewer scratches.

As far as the packaging content is concerned, some additives provide effective protection against extraneous factors, preserving the product's taste and the appearance on supermarket shelves.

SenzAA reducers prevent the unpleasant taste of waters bottled in PET by nearly 85%, with acetaldehyde levels reaching less than one part per million. In addition to this, the company's UV Absorbers create a barrier to protect against harmful UV rays and visible light, which can damage the content. It is used especially for transparent preforms that are designed to encase sensitive liquids, including vitamin waters, juices and sauces, as well as fabric conditioners, detergents and other household products.

The world of packaging is evolving and, as a colourant and additive producer, REPI is regularly called upon to play a leading role in the market's development, offering advanced and smart solutions for areas where nature and production processes are yet to catch up. ■

## Further information

REPI  
www.repi.com

