



For suppliers using reusable steel totes in their process to produce or package materials for PPG, it is important to be aware of the risks associated with the steel tote cleaning process.

Inadvertent cross-contamination can cause significant quality issues, especially if low surface tension contaminants are present in the cleaning process. The following guidelines are critical to prevent contamination issues in PPG product:

For solvent re-packaged for use at a PPG Automotive Coatings or Resin facility, solvent dedicated totes are required.

For non-solvent materials filled into reusable totes and used anywhere in a process that produces materials for PPG Automotive Coatings, a risk assessment should be conducted to determine if additional measures are required.

### **Quality Control Inspections at Supplier Site:**

Receiving and/or pre-filling inspection of empty totes – visual check, and pH testing of rinse water (if caustic is used for cleaning)

### **Checklist Items for the Tote Cleaning facility:**

- The list of materials in totes cleaned at the same facility should be checked for siloxanes and other low surface tension ingredients to assess the risk of cross contamination.
- Frequency and method of changing the caustic system is based on a titration or similar test method.
- The fluid pressure, cleaning time and temperature of the cleaning cycle must be validated as being effective.
- Valves must be completely disassembled for cleaning. Valves, lids and other parts should be cleaned and stored properly before assembly.
- The method used to dry the totes should be validated as adequate for end use.
- A mesh filter test on the final water rinse should be performed to confirm cleanliness
- Facility operators should be trained on contamination prevention
- Maintenance controls must be in place at the facility
  - List of all materials used on equipment checked against PPG's list (MRL)

A procedure in place to solvent clean new or repaired equipment before putting into service.

# Guidelines for Reusable Steel Totes – PPG Industrial Segment

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*NB: The requirements mentioned above are not applicable for SCM (Specialty Coatings and Materials sites: Delfzijl, Barberton, Darien, Lake Charles, Monroeville and Shannon).*

If there are any questions regarding this policy and its application, please contact your local PPG Quality Contact.