



Label Adhesives Guide

Packaging Applications • Material Compatibility • Expert Recommendations

Hickman Label Company | 2026 Edition

Recommended Adhesive: Permanent adhesive

Best For: Glass, metal, and other smooth surfaces

Why It Works:

Permanent adhesives are the best choice for most glass and metal packaging because they're designed to remain securely attached for the life of the product.

Once applied, they create a durable bond that resists everyday handling, transportation, retail display, and long-term storage.

For most food, beverage, household, industrial, and personal care applications using glass or metal containers, a permanent adhesive is the starting recommendation.



Recommended Adhesive: High-tack adhesive

Best For: HDPE, LDPE, polypropylene, squeeze bottles, and other difficult to label plastics.

Why It Works:

Many plastic containers, particularly HDPE and LDPE, naturally resist standard adhesives because their surfaces have low surface energy. High-tack adhesives are specially formulated to create a stronger initial bond, helping labels stay securely attached throughout shipping, handling, and everyday use.

For products packaged in difficult-to-label plastics, high-tack adhesives provide the extra holding power needed without changing the appearance of the finished label.



Recommended Adhesive: Cold-temperature adhesive

Best For: Refrigerated, frozen, and cold-filled products exposed to low temperatures or condensation

Why It Works:

Standard permanent adhesives often perform well at room temperature but can lose adhesion when applied or stored in cold environments. Cold-temperature adhesives are engineered to bond reliably under refrigeration, freezing conditions, and repeated temperature changes.

When your packaging spends part or all of its life in the cold chain, choosing an adhesive designed for low temperatures helps prevent lifting edges, peeling, and label failure.



Recommended Adhesive: Removable adhesive

Best For: Reusable containers, promotional packaging, products that require clean label removal

Why It Works:

Removable adhesives are formulated to provide reliable adhesion during normal use while allowing labels to be removed cleanly when they're no longer needed. This helps prevent adhesive residue from being left behind on reusable packaging or equipment.

They're commonly used for reusable food containers, warehouse identification, rental equipment, seasonal promotions, pricing labels, and temporary product labeling where containers may be reused or relabeled over time.



Questions?

Reach out to:

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