



## Plastic Compactor

Resource Management

A fact sheet on the compaction of plastic using a basket compactor

*Why compact your plastic?* Managing loose, light plastic is inefficient and creating dense bales reduces transportation and storage space while creating a product for recycling and resource recovery

*What kind of plastic can you compact?* You can compact (1) polypropylene like twine and net wrap (2) low density polyethylene like silage and bunker covers and (3) linear low-density polyethylene like bale and silage wrap but each type of plastic has to be baled separately.

Approximately 520 tonnes of LLDPE is generated each year in Northern Ontario and will be the focus of an anticipated pilot project to manage agricultural plastic across the North

*How much plastic fits into one bale?* The compactor can compress upwards of **500 hay bales** into a single 1000 lb bale ready for market.

*Can I share a compactor with my neighbour?* Communal compacting can be done, but one person is responsible for the ID tag and ensuring that different types of plastic aren't mixed or that the bale isn't full of dirt, silage, etc.

*Where do the bales go?* A pilot project is under development to consolidate bales across Northern Ontario for end use through recycling (lumber) or resource recovery (energy). In the meantime, compacted bales are a more manageable and environmentally sound option than burying, burning or dumping loose plastic in the landfill.



Watch **'Tying the Bale'** and **'Ejecting the Bale'**

instructional videos at

 U-Pac Agri Service



### Compacting in 8 Easy Steps:

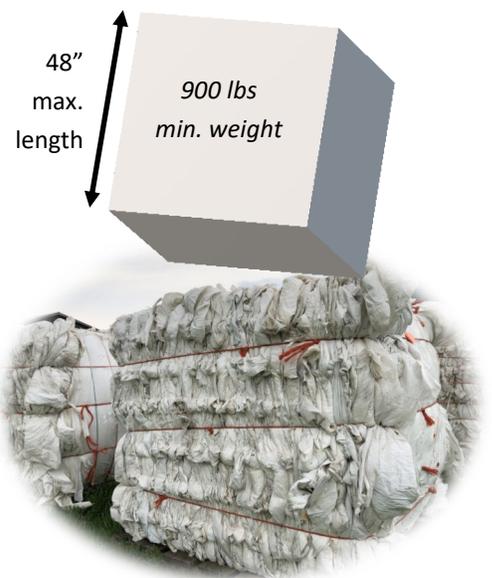
1. Place compactor in level location, ensuring that the entire base is in contact with the ground, enabling it to support the pressure of compaction
2. Fold the first piece of plastic in a 40" square and place it across the bottom surface of the bale chamber
3. Place plastic in the compactor as necessary, initially using a pole to press it in the corners
4. When compacting the bale always place the plunger in the chamber and apply pressure slowly
5. To achieve the maximum density, the full weight of the tractor must be maintained on the plunger until all the air has been forced out of the plastic and the plastic has stopped settling in the chamber
6. Before tying the bale fold the last piece of plastic in a 40" square and place it across the surface of the bale chamber
7. All bales must be tied with 6 strings and after ejecting the bale, add at least 3 strings on the opposite side of the bale (the more the better)
8. Keep the bale on a 40"x48" multi-directional pallet, affix the ID bag to the bale and store it prior to pick-up.

The plastic doesn't need to be cleaned prior to compaction, but it should be shaken off and kept as dry as possible before it enters the compactor.

The compactor itself should be under cover, either in a building or have a tote/tarp covering attached, during the compaction process. This will prevent moisture from entering the bale while it is compacted.

The ID tags are used to track the bale from the source of the plastic to the end-user to ensure that participants are providing high-quality bales that are packed correctly and include the right types of plastic.

Visit [www.nofia-agri.com](http://www.nofia-agri.com) to check out the 2018 Northern Ontario Agricultural Plastics Disposal Assessment Report for more information.



If you are interested in finding out more about the plastic compactor or about Northern Ontario's efforts to manage used agricultural plastic as a resource, please contact:

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#### Ontario Federation of Agriculture

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