



Starlinger

Press Article

From waste to value: How to transform film production scrap into a valuable secondary resource

by Elfriede Hell, General Manager recycling technology

Production scrap happens throughout the film production chain. At the same time, a variety of economic factors like rising resin prices, cost reduction pressures, and stronger competition have led to higher awareness concerning production costs. Starlinger recycling technology holds the position that production scrap is a valuable secondary resource to produce first-class products. Recycling of production waste contributes considerably to competitiveness and results in cost saving, resource conservation and a high quality end product. The choice of the right equipment is fundamental when planning to increase regranulate content in the primary product up to 100%. Starlinger's know-how enables the production of high-value regranulate with virgin-like quality, which in turn improves the cost efficiency and stability of the primary production process.

Recycling solutions for a wide range of materials

For the film recycling industry, Starlinger recycling technology offers a spectrum of innovative state-of-the-art machinery solutions for the efficient recycling of all kind of film materials: single layer and multilayer films, machine direction or bi-axially oriented films, same polymer films, heavily printed films, or films with a mixture of MFIs, to name a few. The materials can be in different conditions such as dry, humid (up to 8% humidity, due to storage or hygroscopic properties), unprinted, partially or heavily printed, clean or contaminated, and different shapes. The produced material can either be reused in the same or various other applications.

High-end technology for high-quality end products

The division Starlinger recycling technology has become a global player in the field of film recycling, and the recycling lines *recoSTAR basic* and *recoSTAR universal* rapidly asserted their place in the market.

The *recoSTAR universal* allows the processing of material without pre-cutting due to its heavy-duty single-shaft cutter arranged parallel to the extruder. This line is ideal to process films and hard-to-grind materials. The feeding is stable and consistent thanks to a speed-controlled dosing screw. For the processing of heavily printed films double vacuum units are available.

The *recoSTAR basic* is a highly automated solution for in-line applications. Moreover, it is optimal for the processing of films and sheets, operating both off-line or in-line with the production line. The *recoSTAR basic* is equipped with an agglomerator that pre-dries and compacts the material before extrusion, thus allowing higher moisture content of the input material. The well-established system is ideal for the processing of hygroscopic and wet materials as well as clean production scrap. During the process the film material is treated with care so as to avoid degradation. Up to 80 % of the regranulate can be reused in production, maintaining the same film strength and comparable physical properties, and minimising gel formation. The equipment can be set in automatic mode for in-line applications, and in semi-automatic mode for off-line and mixed applications. For both types of equipment customers can choose from a wide range of different filtration and pelletising systems.



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Starlinger recoSTAR recycling lines are characterised by a high degree of automation and allow quick and easy adjustment to new requirements. Thus it is possible to achieve the right processing for various types of film production waste in different applications. The constant production process and continuous machine improvements lead to low manpower requirements, contributing to competitive investment costs and a fast ROI.

More information about Starlinger recycling technology:

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