



## FOCUS ON: ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PACKAGING

### *How can we source, use and dispose of packaging responsibly?*

In order to function efficiently in today's world, we need packaging. Products that are not packed correctly mean goods are spoiled and damaged in storage and transit, this increases waste volumes, and returns, which have a knock-on effect on carbon footprint.

We are all familiar with the recent reports of whales dying due to ingesting plastic bags, and other topical issues about the threat plastic packaging presents to the environment. In order to find a solution to this problem, we need to understand the real issue. It may surprise you to learn, that although Europe and the United States produce 40% of the global plastic production, the ocean leakage from these continents is only 2%. These economies have heavily invested in efficient collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure which is continuously improved and the results are evident.

The popular idea is to reduce as much plastic as possible and turn towards more natural products which 'appear' more eco-friendly. The tricky question is - is paper really a better option?

- Paper bags have a far larger carbon footprint than plastic, it would require seven times as many trucks to deliver the same quantity of paper bags compared to plastic.
- Paper requires large amounts of water and natural resources during the manufacturing process. Incidentally, the plastic bag was introduced to prevent excessive tree-cutting for paper bag making...!
- Paper can be easily recycled however; the resulting product is not so strong and often requires virgin material to be added to improve the quality. Plastic recycling is becoming increasingly effective and access to these facilities is constantly improving.
- Correct wrapping protects goods, especially in the food industry. Many tonnes of food are wasted due to reducing the amount of packaging to try and promote a 'greener' image.
- Where disposal of packaging materials is unavoidable, paper takes up significant volumes of landfill space compared to plastics. Contrary to popular belief paper materials in landfill sites take many, many years to breakdown.

**In conclusion, the issue really rests with us to use and dispose of all packaging waste responsibly, whatever materials are used.**

**Fern Dale Supplies are committed to reducing the impact of its activities on the environment and the following information offers some environmentally responsible options which will help reduce packaging waste and compliment *your* green credentials. For further details contact us:**

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## ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PACKAGING

**CORRUGATED CARDBOARD CARTONS**

Manufactured using at least 60% recycled materials and starch based adhesives, which means they can be easily and completely recycled at any paper recycling plant.

Cardboard is biodegradable and will decompose naturally. The starch based adhesive used to hold the layers together is not harmful to the environment.

Cardboard can also be composted, although this may not be an option in an industrial environment. Boxes made with a higher percentage of recycled material are not so strong and not recommended for use when packing heavy items.

**CARTON SEALING OPTIONS**

E TAPE – smaller cores and longer roll length equates to almost 60% reduction in packaging waste compared to standard length rolls.

Special acrylic adhesive effectively replaces solvents making it even more environmentally friendly.

Kraft paper tapes, both water activated and eco-friendly self-adhesive hot melt, offer secure sealing and can be fully recycled.

Tapes can be custom printed with your own personal design to further promote your brand.

**WRAPPING MATERIALS**

Embossed paper rolls the 'paper bubble wrap' and corrugated paper are manufactured with 100% recycled material and can be completely recycled once used. These products provide optimum cushioning and protection and can also be used for layering.

Kraft paper, both pure and imitation, made with paper from managed sustainable sources offer excellent wrapping, layering and void filling.

All are available in a range of widths and grades from stock.



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## MAILING

The original paper padded mailing bags are made from natural fibres with a 100% recycled paper inner layer. These bags provide outstanding protection and cushioning for many items in transit. They can be fully recycled making it easy to dispose of when no longer required.

Paper sacks offer a traditional alternative to the polythene mailing bags and can be easily recycled once used.

Eco-friendly polythene mailing bags are manufactured from recycled material and can be disposed of by standard plastic recycling methods. Biodegradable film options are also available.



## VOID FILLING

**AIRTECH** – environmentally friendly air cushioning. The film for these air pillows contains reclaimed raw materials from production waste. Once the packaging is no longer required the film can be simply disposed of by existing recycling methods.

The low weight involved means parcels are lighter, which saves fuel when shipping – protecting your products and reducing carbon footprint.



**EASIFILL** and **PAPERplus** systems use recycled paper material to create a variety of void filling options to suit low and high volume users.

Superior strength means the pads can be reused. The uncoated papers can be easily recycled when no longer required.

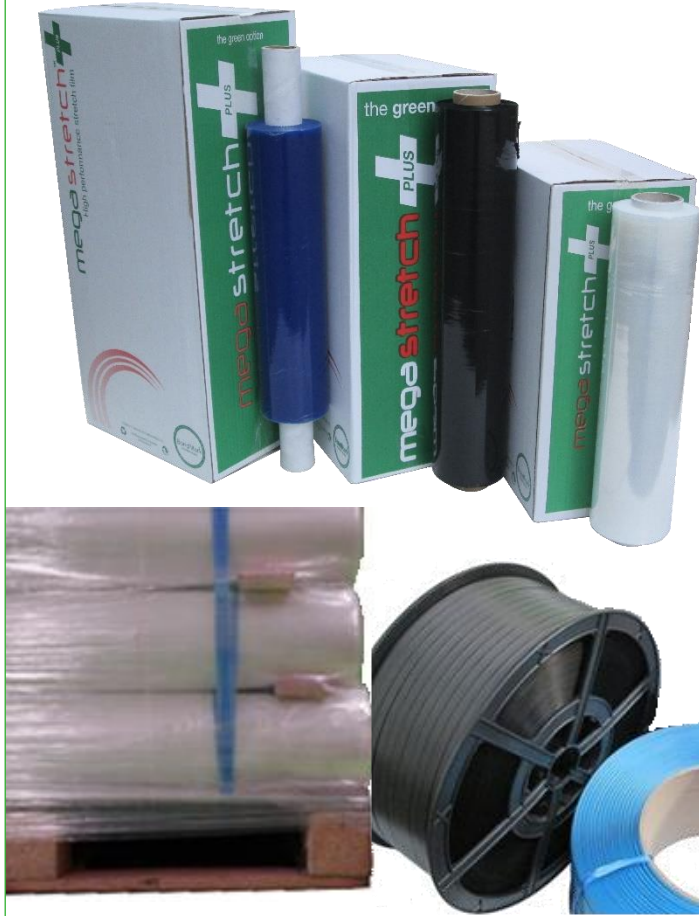


## ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PACKAGING

## PALLET STABILITY

Engineered films developed to give greater results with less film. Excellent stretch and puncture resistance, but the lighter weight material reduces the impact on the environment. Available for hand and machine applications. Pre-stretched film can significantly decrease film usage.

Plastic strapping is, in actual fact, made from 100% recycled material and can be recycled by the general plastic waste facilities. Consider using strapping to minimise your stretch or shrink film usage.



## EDGE PROTECTION

Cardboard edges protect the most vulnerable areas. They can be used to stabilise pallets and prevent strapping from scratching or damaging surfaces.

Available in 'L' and 'U' profiles they offer complete protection for doors, worktops, and furniture.

Manufactured using recycled materials they are fully recyclable or can be reused, offering a more environmentally friendly alternative to the foam edge protection.



Your environmentally responsible packaging provider...



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**packaging**  
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