



The Pros and Cons of Plastic Pallets

Food Logistics Forum
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Pallets

A sine qua non of logistics.

They are essential to all we do.

Warehousing and transportation depend on pallets to make modern, high-speed materials handling possible.

Pallet Facts



- About 95% of all pallets in use in the world today are made of wood. Plastic pallets account for about 1%.
- In the US, wood pallets account for 90% of all pallets.
 - Plastic pallets are gaining acceptance due to improved design and material

Pallet Facts



- GMA members use about 30% of all wood pallets produced in the United States.
- There are over 500 manufacturers of wood pallets in the US.
- There are over 500 manufacturers of plastic pallets of all types, shapes and sizes.

Pallet Facts



California, Alameda County Waste Management, 2010

PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF AVERAGE WOODEN VS. PLASTIC PALLETS

Description	Wooden Pallets	Plastic Pallets
Initial Cost	\$5- 12	\$35-60
Weight	60 pounds	50 pounds
Estimated Life	5 trips	Hundreds of trips
Repair Costs	\$6/month/pallet	\$0 – no repair costs
Strength	Same	Same
End Use	Recyclable & compostable	Recyclable
Storage	Some deterioration	No deterioration stored outdoors

A Look At Plastic



- Sanitation & Food Safety
 - Reduces concern of pathogen contamination and insect infestation
 - National Consumers League (NCL) testing showed wood pallets significantly more likely to carry pathogens (E. Coli, Listeria) vs. plastic
 - NCL asking FDA to act to set ‘minimum sanitary and safety standards’ to protect food supply
 - Plastic pallets easily cleaned and sanitized

A Look At Plastic



- Costs
 - Plastic has higher initial cost than wood
 - Plastic has lower costs over the life of the pallet due to longer usability
- Durability
 - No splintering or protruding nails to harm product, equipment and handlers

Variety of Plastic Pallets



Flat-top Rackable



Stackable



Double Face Non-Reversible



Single Face Stackable



Export: ISO Compliant

iGPS Plastic Pallets



Intelligent Global Pooling Systems

Advantages

- Trackability
 - RF Bar code & RFID tagged
- Fire safety
 - Less flammable with fire retardant integrated into plastic
 - Only UL certified plastic pallet
 - Insurance fire prevention rated same as wood

iGPS Plastic Pallets



Advantages

- **Functionality & Performance**
 - Consistent size and shape
 - Weigh 48.5 pounds, 30% less than wood
 - Load capacity of up to 2,800 pounds
 - Edge rackable and exceeds GMA standards
- **Reduced product damage**
 - Full top deck
 - Superior strength

iGPS Plastic Pallets



Advantages

- Automation compatible
 - Conforms well due to consistent size, durability
- Transportation
 - Cost of fuel reduced due to lighter weight of iGPS pallet
- Sustainability
 - 100% recyclable – doesn't add to landfill

iGPS Plastic Pallets



Issues/Challenges

- Condensation and slippage factor in frozen environment
 - Pallet slides off of forklift tines
 - Product slips off of pallets
- Difficulty slip sheeting due to raised lip around edge
- Pallet tracking and management at PRW
 - Inability to maintain single stockpile for multiple parties

Next Up



Scott Cassman

Western Region Distribution Manager

General Mills