

Sustainable Packaging

Save money and act responsibly.

In an ongoing effort to make Stovesonline into a more sustainable business we are looking at the packaging that the products we order are sent out in. We believe that using sustainable packaging is every business' responsibility and so we have put together some information to encourage you to start sourcing and shifting over to sustainable packaging.

Many of the alternatives actually end up saving money anyway.

We have been advised by WRAP (<http://www.wrap.org.uk/>) and Envirowise (<http://www.envirowise.gov.uk>)

Guiding principles:

- Make sure the product arrives unbroken.
- Reduce waste.
- Use recycled materials if possible.
- Use recyclable / biodegradable materials if possible.
- Use non-plastics if possible.

The Packaging waste obligations 2008 regulations may also mean that certain businesses have a legal obligation to recycle packaging and source recycled and / or biodegradable packaging.

Some experimentation with new materials may be needed. Your current suppliers of packaging may be able to provide you with sustainable packaging – the list here is not intended to be exhaustive.

Next day deliveries use more resources – if the goods can go out on a slower delivery and still arrive at the right time then this is better and saves money.

Pallets – good place to save money

Using recycled pallets is a great idea and can save money.

- Hambrook Pallets – Bristol, Wales, Devon, Newport T: 0117 982 1236, F: 0117 982 2252
- Pallet Recovery & Son – Kent Tel: 01795 533221, Fax: 01795 530002,

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Email: sales@palletrecoveryandson.co.uk

- P&C Cwmbran - T: 01633 87 00 55, E: contact@pcpallets.co.uk
- PRS Pallets – Essex. T: 01621 819628
- Ideal Pallets – Surrey T: 01483 531440, F: 01483 531443
- DP Pallets - Avon T: 01454 228036

Shrink wrap for pallets

I could find no alternative - but moving to a thinner wrap might be an option as long as it is strong enough.

Cardboard boxes – good place to save money

Re-used boxes: once used cardboard boxes are much cheaper than new ones and come in various sizes and flat packed like new boxes. Typically the price is around 40% less than a new recycled cardboard box.

Recycled cardboard boxes and cardboard: recycled cardboard works out a little cheaper than new cardboard.

- Elro Products T: 01524 824124 F: 01524 824440, Email: enquiries@boxcardboard.co.uk

Starch Loose-fill

Starch Loose-fill is compostable and can be burnt (looks like huge cheesy wotsits).

- Storopack. T: 0114 2492004
- Green Light products (GreenFill & EcoFlow) T: 029 2079 0880

Cardboard Void-fill machine

Cuts cardboard to make a cushioning void-fill but the machine is quite pricey.

- <http://www.easypack.net/easyfill.htm>

Polystyrene sheets

Ecobloc is a compostable foam that can take many shapes and may be an alternative to polystyrene sheets.

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Jiffy bags

A recycled paper jiffy bag with recycled paper cushioning is available.

- Office Supplies – London, T: 0870 777 2387

Bubblewrap

There are several types of Biodegradable bubble wrap.

- http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/!!-NEW-!!-100M-x-500mm-ECO-Friendly-Bubble-Wrap_W0QQitemZ200202204475QQcmdZViewItem
- The Bubble Factory. T: 01227 722228.
- Biobubble: http://www.phflexible.co.uk/acatalog/Bubble_Wrap.html

Paper packaging tape

More sustainable than the plastic tape plus it can be recycled/burnt and makes the cardboard easier to recycle.

We are trialling paper tape at the moment to see if it is strong enough.

- http://www.tapes-direct.co.uk/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=148_192
- http://www.buy-stationery.co.uk/cgi-bin/product_detail_partno.pl?TES17813

Packaging label

A good idea would be to have a simple label to tell the customer about recycling. This information could of course also be shown on delivery notes / receipts:

- what packaging they should recycle
- how they should recycle it
- what packaging they can compost
- what packaging they can burn.

Printing

Where possible try to use vegetable based based inks and recycled paper/card.

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