

Open pallet pooling:

Freely accessible, sustainable and efficient



What is open pallet pooling?

In open pallet pooling systems, companies buy, use and exchange standardised pallets in a network that includes producers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, transporters, repair shops and service providers.

The large number of companies involved ensures fast, and wide availability of the pallets and short transport distances. This system reduces the CO2 footprint and optimises the resilience of supply chains.

Used pallets are collected and, if necessary, reconditioned or repaired. This ensures they have a long service life, which protects resources and reduces costs.

A sustainable solution

Reusing pallets in an open pallet pool system works to the central principles of a circular economy – and is the basis of sustainable transport logistics.

When the pallets can no longer be repaired and used, zero-waste recycling takes place, recycled material used for other wood products such as chipboard.

Open pallet pooling significantly reduces the use of wood and waste when compared to 'single use' pallets. Paying a part in the open pallet pool helps supply chain businesses fulfil their sustainability obligations and make an important contribution to protecting the climate and the environment.

Simple and cost-effective

Open pallet pooling is simple and efficient, allowing users to focus on their core business – with low and transparent costs.

Access to open pallet pooling is free for all companies, with no fees or costs. Exchange can be carried out by the companies involved according to their specific needs. They can, for example, maintain exchange accounts with supply chain partners, sell the pallets with the goods, or commission a service provider to handle the pallet exchange.

Open pooling systems involve high quality pallets, which are needed in high-bay warehouses and automatic conveyor systems.



Benefits of open pooling for users

Users of open pooling systems can benefit from:

- Low and transparent costs
- Reduced additional costs
- Strong pallet resistance and performance
- Free and easy access to the open pallet pool without contractual obligation
- Sustainable pallet logistics

Open pallet pooling in Europe

Open pallet pooling is active across Europe and many other countries.

More than 675 million EPAL Euro pallets and 20 million EPAL box pallets are in circulation in the open EPAL pallet pool. This makes the EPAL pallet pool the largest open pallet pool in the world.

With a network of more than 1,500 licensed companies that produce or repair EPAL pallets, as well as with many service providers, EPAL supports the participants in the open pallet exchange.

More than 100 million new EPAL Euro pallets per year ensure the high quality of the exchange pool. EPAL pallets are made from sustainable wood sources and have been treated in accordance with the IPPC plant protection standard ISPM15 since 2010. EPAL pallets can therefore be used internationally without borders.

