

Lightweight packaging: A flexible, hygienic choice



Wooden lightweight packaging is incredibly flexible, providing robust protection for delicate products, in a wide variety of formats.

Wooden lightweight crates and boxes are mostly made for horticultural products, including fresh fruits and vegetables. They can also be used for fish and other seafood, for dairy products such as cheese, for other food and drink products, and as bespoke gift and presentation boxes.

A natural look

Lightweight packaging (LWP) boosts the appearance of the products it carries. Compared to other materials such as cardboard or plastic, LWP emphasises quality, freshness, and naturalness.

Different printing technologies allow companies to use their branding on LWP, with different images and messages to help sell their products. In this way, LWP links brand and consumer better than plain plastic crates.

Flexible formats

LWP industry technology allows the creation of standard and customised formats for customers. These include standard bases - including 20cm x 20cm, 30 x 20, 40 x 30, 50 x 30, 60 x 40, which are compatible with standard European and US pallets.

Small formats of LWP are also popular for direct sales to customers, and often used in promotional deals.

With manufacturing facilities usually located close to packers, just in time delivery is usually possible, too.

Fresh and hygienic

- Wood has proven antibacterial properties, which make it particularly well suited to direct contact with food and drink.
- Numerous studies show wood to be better (or at least as good as) other packaging materials – see studies by EMABOIS and EMBALIM, for example.
- The wood and design of LWP allows better ventilation, fast cooling, protection across sometimes long distances, and longer product shelf life.
- Compared with cardboard, wood is more resistant to, and will retain its shape in, humid conditions.
- LWP is designed for single use and is manufactured according to good practice and traceability principles.





Sustainable as standard

Wood is the most sustainable packaging material. Studies have shown that it is the packaging material with the lowest carbon impact (ADEME 2000).

Each cubic metre of wood absorbs almost one tonne of CO₂ as it grows.

LWP is manufactured from wood such as black poplar and pine from sustainably managed crops and forests. After it has been used, it can be recycled into other materials, such as panel board or wood chips, or as biomass fuel.

As this and other wooden packaging is manufactured from a sustainable material, using unusable old units for energy recovery is an excellent, renewable solution.

GROW-labelled packaging guarantees the use of untreated wood, which is more straightforward to process as waste.

A green European business

There are several hundred LWP manufacturers located in the EU. The majority of these are SMEs in France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Spain.

Together they produce more than one billion units every year.

How do we make wooden crates?

The components of the crate are usually joined together by wire to increase their strength further.

1. Four corner pieces are cut according to the height of the crate.
2. The four pieces are joined to small boards to form two front head panels.
3. Two sides are assembled to form the rim.
4. The last component is the base or bottom, which can be smooth, die-cut, or made with a traditional slatted bottom.



The advantages of using lightweight wooden packaging

- Strength and Flexibility
- Flexibility
- Antibacterial properties
- Fast-cooling properties
- Water resistance
- Sustainability
- Recyclability

Contact FEFPEB

For more information about FEFPEB membership or sponsorship, please contact FEFPEB Secretary General Fons Ceelaert at: info@fefpeb.eu

Postal address:
Postbus 4076, 5004 JB Tilburg,
The Netherlands

Main address:
Reitseplein 1, 5037 AA Tilburg,
The Netherlands

☎ +31 013-594 48 02
✉ www.fefpeb.eu

