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glossary of packaging terms

BEERS TOP & BOTTOM TRAY

Glued tray style that ships flat and pops into a carton. Ideal for stationery, clothing or gift wrapping applications.

BEERS TRAY WITH ATTACHED LID

Ships flat. Similar to Beers Top & Bottom. Ideal for foods, pies and clothing.

BENDING CHIP

This board won't bend your budget. This affordable, uncoated brown chipboard is your best bet for small parts, industrial items and other stock box solutions. No slacker, this material can handle up to two-color printing if needed.

BLANK

A folding carton after cutting and creasing but before folding and gluing.

CALIPER

A dimensional term used interchangeably with the word "thickness" in connection with paperboard. It is expressed in units of thousandths of an inch and is usually written decimally but may be referred to as "points."

CARTON

A unit container made from bending grades of boxboard, see folding carton. It is a shortened term for "folding carton," the preferred designation for folding boxes, folding paper boxes and folding paperboard boxes. The word carton does not refer to set-up boxes, corrugated or solid fiber shipping containers.

CCNB (CLAY COATED NEWSBACK)

Your "good news" alternative. Constructed of recycled material with a coated top liner, this material offers strength and multi-color printability at an affordable price. Ideal for food, auto parts, hardware and more. One variation to this material is you can have a Kraft Back, adding about 5 percent stacking and bursting strength.

COATING

A substance applied in liquid form to the surface of boxboard to enhance and protect printing or impart special functional properties. Coatings include varnishes, water based, and energy curable coatings (such as ultraviolet or uv).

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN (CAD)

The use of a computer drafting software to design folding cartons. The cad program also provides information for layout and manufacture of the dies that will be used to cut and crease the cartons (computer aided manufacturing or CAM).

CORRUGATED FLUTES

The inventors of corrugated board discovered the most efficient way to add structural strength is by using an arch. Generally the larger flute profiles give greater vertical strength and cushioning. The smaller flutes help enhance graphic capabilities while providing greater structural integrity. By experimenting with flute profiles, designers can vary compression strength, cushioning strength and thickness. Flutes come in several standard sizes such as A, B, C, E, and F. Different flute profiles can be combined in one piece of combined board. For instance, our doublewall board uses a BC flute combination.

COUNTERTOP DISPLAY

Countertop displays are often also the shipper carton to save money. These dualpurpose cartons carry then display the product.

DIE

A form used for shaping, cutting or stamping out parts and blanks. Usually made from hard metal but may be made of wood or other suitable material.

DIE CUTTING

The cutting of corrugate, paperboard or paper by a die.

DOUBLE WALL CORRUGATED

Two corrugated mediums with a linerboard facing adhered between them and to both sides. This 5ply construction is most applicable for packing heavy items where high rigidity and protection is required.

DUST FLAPS

The narrow flaps extending from each side of a carton or from the sides of a top or cover that turn down into the carton before closure to keep foreign particles out.

FIBERBOARD

The general term indicating boxboard that contains center plies of a different finish than used for the top and bottom liners.

FILM

A flexible plastic material, generally transparent, used as windows in cartons, or for overwraps and laminates. It is extruded, cast or calendered.

FLAP

One of the closing members of a folding carton, an envelope or corrugated container.

FIVE PANEL FOLDER (5PF)

A tube forms the body. The two interchangeable covers are usually design style. The pieces are shipped flat to the user, who opens the tube and sets up the covers.

FOLDING CARTON

The generally accepted designation of containers made of bending grades of plain or printed boxboard, cut and creased in a variety of sizes and shapes and delivered to the user in a flat, or glued and collapsed form.

FULL OVERLAP SLOTTED CONTAINER (FOL)

All flaps have the same length (the width of the box). When closed, the outer flaps come within one inch of complete overlap.

FULL SEAL END

Designed to be used with high-speed automated filling. Ends are glued by machine in fulfillment.

FULL TELESCOPE DESIGN

Telescope boxes usually consist of a separate top, or top and bottom, that fit over each other or a separate body. The International Fiberboard Case Code calls these boxes Telescope Style. The truck and rail classification call them Telescope Boxes if the cover extends over at least two-thirds of the depth, and Boxes with Covers if the cover extends over less than two-thirds of the depth.

GLUING

The operation of applying an adhesive substance to the surface of a material which causes it to bond or adhere to another.

GLUE FLAP

Structural element or panel of a folding carton blank which is held in position by an adhesive to form a carton. Also referred to as manufacturer's joint.

GRAIN

The longitudinal arrangement of the fibers in paper or paperboard which results as they settle in the direction parallel with the travel of the paper or board machine. Direction of the grain is important in carton design as greater tearing strength exists across the grain, and greater tensile strength in grain direction.

INK RECEPTIVITY

The degree of penetration of printing inks on the surface of boxboard.

KRAFT

Your down-to-Earth option. The brown kraft material gives your package an earthy, eco-friendly image and works well with two or three color graphics. Its clean look and ease of printability make this a popular choice for the fast food industry, as well as fasteners and small parts. Lower basis weight makes this material cost competitive with recycled board. Yet at lower basis weight it still maintains comparable tear strength.

HALF SLOTTED CONTAINER (HSC)

Same as Regular Slotted Container without one set of flaps.

LOCK TRAY WITH LID

An inexpensive, no-glue assembly carton style. Ideal for presentations.

MICRO-FLUTE

The micro fluted design provides the strength and stability required to handle the demands of heavier products and machine-filled applications. A product that not only works well, it looks great. Our in-house offset printing capabilities ensure clean, quality graphics carton for carton. This substrate is also available in F & N flute sizes.

ONE PIECE FOLDER (OPF)

One piece of board is cut so that it provides a flat bottom, with flaps forming the sides and ends, and extensions of the side flaps meeting to form the top.

OVERLAP SLOTTED CONTAINER (OSC)

All flaps have the same length. The outer flaps overlap by one inch or more.

PACKAGE

A container that provides protection, identification, and promotes the sale and use of a product.

PADS

Pads are plain shapes of corrugated or solid fiberboard. They can be used to fill the space between the inner flaps of an RSC, to completely cover the bottom or top of a box, or to separate layers of product. Vertically, they can be used to separate products.

PALLET

A low, portable platform of wood, metal, plastic, or fiberboard which facilitates the handling, storage, and transportation of materials as a unit.

PREPRESS

The collective activities of preparing copy for printing. In an analog workflow, it would include color separation, the production of films, analog proofs, using the film to make printing plates, and the makeready of the press. In a digital workflow, this would include manipulating the digital files for producing the printing plates, digital proofing, and makeready of the press.

PROOF

A trial impression made in conjunction with a printing process to determine the need for corrections. Impressions must be taken singly from each colorplate of a set, showing each color alone, and in combination with each of the other colors in proper sequence. Proofs should be made on the board and with the inks to be used for actual production. Different types of proofs are: Soft Proof (a digital representation that can be emailed), Hard Proof (a physical rendering created usually on Epson plotter machines that are color calibrated) and Printcards (a digital PDF and also a physical print used at time of manufacturing).

RECYCLED MATERIAL (FIBER)

Reclaimed material which, after repulping, is used as one of the tow principal furnishes for paper or paperboard. It includes boxboard cuttings, over-issue newspaper, reclaimed corrugated containers, mixed paper, tabulating cards, envelope cuttings, kraft cuttings, etc.

REGULAR SLOTTED CONTAINER (RSC)

All flaps have the same length, and the two outer flaps (normally the lengthwise flaps) are one-half the containers width, so that they meet at the center of the box when folded. If the product requires a flat, even bottom surface, or the protection of two full layers, a fill in pad can be placed between the two inner flaps.

REVERSE TUCK END

Ends tuck into box from opposite directions. Most economical layout due to nesting.

ROLL END TRAY

Formed from a single piece of combined board, the design features an unbroken, and several; layers of corrugated in the end panels.

SBS (SOLID BLEACHED SULFATE)

This material provides the best pure white printing surface available – top-coated for outstanding ink holdout and superior print quality. Designed to support full color printing, crisp die-cutting, folding and scoring, this is your best bet for premium packaging projects. For applications that require customers to see your product, NCC is the window expert. We'll match the film to your application, from food and cosmetics to toys and hardware.

SINGLE FACE SHEET

A corrugated medium with a linerboard facing adhered to one side. It can be manufactured in sheets or rolls. Single face is principally used as a wrapping material, and occasionally for interior packing or padding.

SINGLE WALL CORRUGATED

A corrugated medium with a linerboard facing adhered to both sides. It is also referred to as "Double Face". This popular and versatile 3ply construction is converted into a wide variety of containers and packaging components.

SLOTTED BOXES

Slotted Box styles are generally made from one piece of corrugated or solid fiberboard. The Blank is scored and slotted to permit folding. The box manufacturer forms a joint at the point where one side panel and one end panel are brought together. Boxes are then shipped flat to the user. When the box is needed, the box user squares up the box, inserts product and closes the flaps. The International Fibreboard Case Code refers to these styles as Slotted type Boxes,

STOCK

A term referring to the materials that go into a sheet of paperboard in the state in which they exist just prior to going through the papermaking machine.

STRAIGHT TUCK END

Ends tuck into box from the same direction. Presents a more finished appearance on the front.

STYLES

Packaging made in a great variety of constructions. There is no standard numerical classification of styles, as they are identified by descriptive names and the proprietary designations of their inventors or manufacturers. In the Federal Specification "Boxes, Folding Paperboard" (PPP-B-566a) styles are listed by roman numerals with variations in construction referred to as "types" with arabic numbers, and "classes" with lower case letters.

SUS (SOLID UNBLEACHED SULFATE)

A strong performer, in fact, 20% stronger than its recycled counterpart. The coated top liner offers a significantly smoother printing surface for crisp, clean graphics. Cheers to its wet strength for beverage and freezer applications, as well as for hardware and fasteners.

TEAR STRIP

A perforated band made in a carton blank to facilitate opening the package after it has been filled and sealed. Also a narrow ribbon of film, cord, etc., usually incorporated mechanically in a wrapper or overwrap, or the carton itself.

THUMBHOLE

A semi-circular or triangular cut made in the sides or ends of cartons to facilitate opening of the package. Also, semi-circular openings used on multipacks for inserting fingers for carrying the package.

TRIPLE WALL CORRUGATED

Three corrugated mediums and four linerboard facings. This 7ply construction is used where large container sizes are involved, such as pallet packs.

TUCK TOP AUTO BOTTOM

Bottom pops into place automatically. This means higher filling speeds in hand fulfillment operations.

WRAP AROUND BLANK

A wraparound blank is formed blank into a box by folding it tightly around a rigid product. The positioning of the product, folding and sealing are performed by automatic equipment.

WINDOW

A die-cut opening in a carton blank to provide visibility of contents, usually covered with a transparent film. Sometimes referred to as an Aperture



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