

Environmental Sustainability – Principles

As Wal-Mart and SAM'S CLUB continue to focus on being more environmentally sustainable we need to focus on packaging that is good for the environment and good for business.

Product and package quality does not need to be compromised in order to deliver an environmentally sustainable package.

Use these following principles and work with the buyer to focus on business criteria for a better Package design for the Environment will be achieved.

Remove Packaging

Eliminate unnecessary packaging, extra boxes or layers of packaging

Reduce Packaging

“Right-Size” packages and optimize material strength. Design package appropriately for contents and merchandising requirements

Reuse Packaging

Pallets – Use of CHEP, IFCO etc.
RPC – Reusable Plastic Containers

Renew (able) Packaging

Use materials made of renewable resources
Select materials that are biodegradable or compost-able

Recycle (able) Packaging

Use materials made of highest recycled content without compromising quality
Use Post Consumer Recycled Material (PCR) where appropriate
Components should be chosen based on recycle ability post use
Build packaging out of single material components for easy sorting and recycling.

Revenue (Financial Impact)

Achieve all above principles at cost parity or cost savings.

Environmental Sustainability – Materials List

This page contains a list of preferred materials and material composition for use in packaging design for WAL-MART and SAM'S CLUB. This list is not all encompassing or all exclusive.

Wood / Paper Fiber -

Preferred Materials:

Highest recycled content without compromising required strength and quality

Virgin-wood fibers certified by an independent, third-party sustainable forestry organization.

Corrugated constructed with wax replacement materials

Less Desirable Materials:

Reduce usage of hazardous chlorine compounds

Wax Impregnated Medium, Curtain Coated Corrugated, Cascade Boxes

Unacceptable Materials:

No ancient or protected forested materials

No Chemicals / Heavy Metals / Toxins or Pesticides (but not limited to) that are known to have negative impact to life or the environment

Aluminum, Steel and Glass

When these materials are used in packaging they should be composed of high recycled content.

Plastics -

Preferred Materials:

High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)

Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE)

Polyethylene Teraphthalate (PET)

Recycled Polyethylene Teraphthalate (RPET)

Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA)

Polypropylene (PP)

Polylactic Acid (PLA)

Less Desirable Materials:

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

Polyurethanes (PU)

Polystyrene (PS)

Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS)

Polycarbonates (PC)

Acrylic

Environmental Sustainability – Graphics

Communication

WAL-MART / SAM'S CLUB and our suppliers are making great strides to improve packages and to have a smaller footprint on the environment. These changes are designed to use less material, increase recycled content and be more recyclable.

Recycling the package post use will require the member to participate. Our members need to have the right information to recycle the package. These guidelines will help our member's locate information needed to recycle packages.

Compliance

It is the Merchandise Suppliers responsibility and legal liability that all product claims, warranties, and product information comply with any and all current government requirements by country, state, province, etc. including but not limited to consumer misuse, product hazard warnings, or negative environmental consequences from misuse or disposal. A specific requirement is to comply with the FTC Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims

Location

Our focus is to communicate the item and its benefits to the Customer or Member. Please do not use valuable space on the front of the package to call out information on the package itself. Place the information as outlined on the right - on the back bottom 1/3 of the package.

Information Outline

- Material Composition
- Source Reduction, if applicable, and with comparison information.
- Material Recycled % Pre-Consumer and % Post Consumer
- How to recycle if applicable (Follow FTC Guidelines)

Example Only

- Package is composed of PET/ink/adh/PE
- 10% Material Reduction in size of package compared to previous bag.
- Material Composition:
25% Pre-Consumer Recycled and 10% Post Consumer Recycled Material
- To recycle this package separate paper & plastic materials. Plastic may not be recyclable in your municipality