



goplasticpallets.com[®]

The Responsible Plastic Pallet Company



PLASTIC PALLET BUYER'S GUIDE

GoPlasticPallets.com – All Pallets Ltd
Unit 6, Alder Close
Eastbourne
BN23 6QF
East Sussex

+44 (0)1323 744057
sales@goplasticpallets.com
www.goplasticpallets.com



CONTENTS

Foreword	05
Understanding plastic pallet sizes	06
Plastic pallets vs wood	08
Nestable plastic pallets	11
Medium duty plastic pallets	13
Heavy duty plastic pallets	14
Hygienic pallets	15
Why use plastic pallets instead of wooden pallets for exports?	17
Plastic packaging tax in 2024	19
Our industry-leading recycling scheme	21



FOREWORD

Welcome to our 2024 Pallet Buyer's Guide, a comprehensive resource designed to empower logistics managers and supply chain professionals to make informed decisions about their pallet choices. In an era where logistics efficiency and sustainability are absolutely critical, the importance of selecting the right pallets cannot be overstated.

Our team takes great pride in our commitment to excellence and innovation. In this year's guide, we delve deep into the world of pallets, exploring various aspects that impact your supply chain operations.

From pallet sizes and cost comparisons against traditional wooden pallets, to the durability of plastic pallets, and their suitability for export, we leave no stone unturned. Our goal is to provide you with the knowledge and insights necessary to select the perfect pallet for your business, to reduce costs, and enhance your environmental footprint.

We also address the pressing issue of the Plastic Packaging Tax, explaining its repercussions and what steps you can take to adapt. Furthermore, we discuss our hugely successful recycling scheme and key logistics trends for the upcoming year.

In this fast-paced and growing industry, adaptability and sustainability are paramount. I invite you to explore this guide, absorb the knowledge within, and use it to make pallet choices that will drive your business forward while contributing to a greener future.

Don't forget that our team is always also on hand to answer any questions you might have.

Best wishes,



Jim Hardisty
Managing Director

UNDERSTANDING PLASTIC PALLET SIZES

Understanding pallet sizes is crucial for businesses involved in shipping and logistics. By choosing the right size and weight capacity, companies can ensure efficient transportation, reduce costs, and promote sustainability. goplasticpallets.com offers a wide range of pallet sizes, many of which are made from recycled plastic, emphasising our commitment to sustainability and a circular economy. As the logistics and shipping industry continues to evolve, so will the need for diverse and sustainable pallet solutions.

Historically, pallets were crafted based on the specific needs of industries. Over time, as global trade expanded, the need for standardised pallet sizes became evident. This standardisation has allowed for more efficient storage, shipping, and handling of goods across different regions and industries. For instance, at goplasticpallets.com, we work closely with some of the biggest names from across the retail, food, waste management, pharmaceutical, manufacturing, construction and automotive industries, to name but a few.

Pallets are manufactured in two shapes (rectangular or square) and in a number of different footprints and specifications of plastic. Designed primarily for transportation and storage, they ensure larger shipments are handled efficiently. Whilst wood has traditionally been the prominent material for pallets, plastic pallets continue to grow in popularity across the world. These pallets offer a durable, long-lasting, cost effective and environmentally-friendly alternative to their wooden counterparts.

WHY PALLET SIZE MATTERS

The size of a pallet will not only determine how much product it can carry, but also how it will fit in different storage areas (including racking in warehouses) and how it can be transported. Using the wrong pallet size can lead to wasted space in storage and transportation, increased costs, and potential damage to goods. Therefore, understanding and selecting the right pallet size is essential for efficient logistics and cost savings.

Standardisation in pallet sizes is not just a matter of convenience. It's a strategic move that impacts the entire supply chain. When pallet sizes are standardised, it means that warehouses, vehicles, and materials handling equipment (MHE) can be designed with these dimensions in mind. Moreover, standardised pallets simplify operations, reduce the need for manual handling, and increase the speed of automated systems.



STANDARD UK PALLET SIZES

The standard UK pallet size is 1200mm x 1000mm, with varying heights. This size is widely used throughout the UK and is available in various weight-bearing capacities. When planning a pallet collection or shipment, it's essential to ensure you're using the correct pallet size to avoid any logistical issues.

EUROPEAN PALLET SIZES

While the UK standard size is 1200mm x 1000mm, the typical Euro pallet size is slightly smaller, with dimensions of 1200mm x 800mm. It's crucial to differentiate between the two, especially when shipping goods across Europe, to ensure compatibility and efficient space utilisation. However, one consideration for using plastic pallets over wood, when exporting goods, is that the former is exempt from ISPM15 regulations.

GLOBAL PALLET SIZE VARIATIONS

While we've discussed UK and European pallet sizes, it's essential to understand that pallet dimensions can vary globally. For businesses involved in international trade, being aware of these variations is crucial. For instance, the standard pallet size in North America is different from that in the UK and Europe (40 x 48 inches or 1016mm x 1219mm). Meanwhile, many Australian businesses will use 1165mm x 1165mm pallets. Adhering to regional standards ensures smooth operations and reduces logistical challenges.



PALLET SPECIFICATIONS

When selecting a plastic pallet, it's not just the size that matters. The weight of the product you're shipping is also a crucial consideration. As a rough rule of thumb, a plastic pallet will either be classed as lightweight, medium-duty or heavy-duty – which will each have different capacities for static, dynamic and racking loads. We state these clearly on each individual product page and on our data sheets.

We recommend businesses choose new plastic pallets for reliable quality assurance, as they're manufactured to consistent standards. This eliminates the uncertainty of grading systems (used to classify wooden pallets) and ensures you receive pallets that meet your exact requirements.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS WITH PALLET SIZE

The size and type of pallets also play a role in workplace safety. Incorrectly sized pallets can lead to unstable stacking, increasing the risk of accidents. Plastic pallets, with their consistent dimensions and lack of protruding nails or splinters, offer a safer alternative to wooden pallets. Their smooth surfaces also reduce the risk of injuries during manual handling.

STOCKED RANGE OF PALLET SIZES AT GOPLASTICPALLETS.COM

At [goplasticpallets.com](https://www.goplasticpallets.com), you can find a variety of pallet sizes made from both virgin and recycled plastic. You can find these below:

- 400mm x 300mm
- 600mm x 400mm
- 800mm x 600mm
- 1200mm x 800mm
- 1200mm x 1000mm
- 1100mm x 1100mm
- 1140mm x 1140mm
- 1200mm x 1200mm
- 1400mm x 1400mm

CUSTOM PALLET SIZES

While there are standard pallet sizes, there may be instances where a custom size is required. Custom pallets can be designed to fit specific products or to maximise space in unique storage or transportation scenarios. If you have specific needs, it's worth exploring custom solutions to ensure optimal efficiency. You can speak to our team about your exact requirements.

PLASTIC PALLETS VS WOOD

For those in the know, the “plastic pallets versus wooden pallets” debate is the modern-day logistics dilemma. Although wooden pallets have traditionally been the go-to, plastic pallets have well and truly emerged as a superior alternative offering many benefits. There are differentials between the two, but the most common sticking point that people talk about is cost.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are many factors, other than the initial cost, that need to be considered when choosing the best pallet type for your business, so before we get to cost comparisons, let's recap the key pros and cons of wooden and plastic pallets.

WOODEN PALLET PROS

- Widely available
- Traditionally cheap to produce (though the cost of timber is volatile)
- Can be repaired and recycled (to an extent)
- Low energy consumption in production

WOODEN PALLET CONS

- Susceptible to wear and tear
- Need to be frequently replaced
- Wood is heavier than plastic, pushing up transportation costs
- Nails and splinters can damage the packaging or even the products themselves
- Splinters and debris left behind can push up labour costs
- They absorb moisture
- For exports, wood must be either heat treated or fumigated
- Shortage of supply at busy times
- The environmental impact of deforestation – it can take one tree to make four pallets!

PLASTIC PALLET PROS

- Durable, robust and long lifecycle (last 10 years+)
- Clean and hygienic
- High load capacities (static, dynamic, racking)
- They are often lighter than wood
- Some plastic pallets can be nested, which saves significant space
- Wide variety of styles and sizes
- Sustainable (using recycled plastics) and can be 100% recycled at end of life
- Can be used for export – compliant with ISPM15
- Consistent supply available

PLASTIC PALLET CONS

- Initial outlay
- Can be difficult to repair (time-consuming)
- Can be costly if shipping overseas and there is no back-loading in place. However, this is easier to do with a nestable pallet, with more pallets in a stack
- Requires specialist equipment for recycling at the end of their useful working life. goplasticpallets.com offers a full recycling service

INITIAL COSTS

In the past, wooden pallets have been considerably cheaper than plastic pallets. Still the comparative price has fallen dramatically over recent years, with rises in global timber prices having a significant impact.

It is not always a straightforward comparison as many factors come into play when assessing the up-front pricing. First of all, the type of plastic pallet you choose will have a huge bearing on the overall initial outlay. For instance, a lightweight, nestable plastic pallet may typically cost around 50% more than a traditional used wooden pallet and only a few pence more than a new one. However, if you were opting for a heavy duty, long-lasting plastic pallet, the cost could be higher.



YOU MUST ALSO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING



MATERIAL QUALITY

The price of pallets reflects the cost of materials used to construct them. So, for example, the type of lumber and its cost affects the price of wooden pallets. Wood prices have been rising for some years - the price index of imported sawn or planed wood grew from 132 in 2020 to 195.6 in 2022!

The higher the quality of pallet materials, the more expensive they become. For wooden pallets, quality heat-treated wood pushes the price up.

The most economical plastic pallet option is one made from recycled plastic. At **goplasticpallets.com**, 93% of our plastic pallets are made from recycled materials. This forms a key part of our mission towards building a sustainable future.



MANUFACTURING PROCESS

Plastic pallets are manufactured using a high-pressure moulding method that consistently produces high volumes of pallets. Plastic is melted, and the liquid polymer is then injected into a mould that is clamped together under pressure. Nowadays, most plastic pallets are made of HDPE (impact-resistant high-density polyethylene), which is easy to process. Manufacturing a plastic pallet is more costly than making wooden pallets, as it requires specialised tooling and moulding machinery.

For wooden pallets, the appropriate timber is selected and cut to size. For pallets being used for exports, wood is treated under the ISPM15 international regulations to prevent the spread of pests and fungi. Once cut, wooden pallets are assembled according to specifications using a semi-automatic process.



MARKET DEMAND

The price of pallets constantly changes with the supply and demand of the market. For example, when used wooden pallets are in short supply, the price increases, whereas increased automation and R&D could theoretically reduce the price of plastic pallets in the future.



BULK PURCHASING

Considerable savings can be made when buying pallets in bulk. Take **goplasticpallets.com's** popular Cabka-IPS NEW CPP 790 PE 9F nestable plastic pallet as an example. If you order 200 units, they are priced at £9.60 (excl. VAT) each, however, if you purchased in full truck loads, the price drops to £8.50 (excl. VAT) per unit delivered to the same region*



ONGOING COSTS: WOOD VS. PLASTIC PALLETS

While price differentials between the initial costs of wood and plastic pallets have been tightening, there is clear daylight regarding ongoing costs.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

For wooden pallets that will be shipped abroad, there are administrative expenses associated with ensuring compliance with international regulations. The same compliance issues do not apply to plastic pallets, as they are ISPM 15 exempt.

TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

Plastic pallets offer cost savings during day-to-day use and storage.

The pallets are typically lighter than wooden pallets, which can significantly save on the cost of transportation, especially for exports, where weight matters. However, be aware the weight of plastic pallets will vary depending on the type (lightweight vs heavy duty, for example). If you want to benefit from increased space savings, you can also invest in nestable pallets. These nest neatly into one another, which means considerably more pallets can be carried in a single trailer during return journeys.



LIFESPAN AND DURABILITY ASSESSING LONG-TERM COSTS

LIFESPAN

Although many factors come into play, such as level of usage and storage, you can typically expect a wooden pallet to last between one and five years on average, depending on use. A plastic pallet's lifespan is over ten years. Plastic pallets are not susceptible to moisture, insects, and fungi damage, making them a better option for long-term use and international shipping. They can also be cleaned more easily. Plastic pallets are more structurally sound than wooden pallets, as they have stronger connections on blocks and runners. In contrast, nails on wooden pallets can loosen as the timber shrinks and splinters.

IMPACT OF LIFESPAN COSTS ON TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP

If pallets are used infrequently or for one-time shipments, then wooden pallets may be the more attractive option. But as usage frequency increases, the advantage of plastic pallets becomes more apparent. Their ability to withstand repeated use without significant wear and tear - together with savings on transportation costs - means that plastic pallets are more cost-effective in the long-term.

The cost of wooden pallets mount up for other reasons. In specific sectors, such as food distribution, the risk of contamination from wooden pallets may incur additional costs. Plastic pallets are easier to clean, making them more suitable for those industries where hygiene is vital. Some industries mandate the use of pallets made from specific materials.

SO, HOW CAN THE LONG-TERM ADVANTAGES OF PLASTIC PALLETS BE MEASURED?

We have a cost calculation on our website, which assumes that the purchase price of 5,000 plastic pallets is £40 each, twice as much as that of wooden pallets. Despite this price gap, after five years, the operational cost of the plastic pallets is actually £75,000 less. After ten years, the savings are even more substantial.

If you are choosing pallets for multiple deliveries over many years, then plastic pallets will offer significant savings. Although wooden pallets generally require a lower upfront outlay, they will need more maintenance and have a shorter lifespan. The durability and longevity of plastic pallets translate into lower costs and greater efficiencies over time. If you are looking at the long game, then it is a case of plastic fantastic.



NESTABLE PLASTIC PALLETS

There is a huge variety of different pallets and pallet boxes on the market, and over recent years we have seen a significant growth in the use of nestable plastic pallets, as organisations look to take advantage of the latest advancements. In addition, environmental considerations mean that perceptions about traditional wooden pallets are rightfully changing, and now recyclable plastic is considered a better way forward than wood.

WHAT IS A NESTABLE PALLET?

The clue is in the name. Nestable pallets 'nest' into one another. Their unique design enables them to fit inside each other, meaning they stack together more easily when empty and occupy less space.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NESTABLE AND STACKABLE PALLETS?

The main difference between the two is in how they are stored. When empty, the feet of nestable pallets slot inside the nestable pallet underneath, which means they sit tightly together. Stackable pallets, in contrast, sit on top of one another, so they aren't as space-efficient when empty.

Another difference is with capacity. Stackable pallets can generally carry a much heavier load, though nestable pallets also come in heavy-duty options, such as our SF 1000 H Pallet 9F. With elliptical and reinforced-shaped feet, it also has a huge dynamic capacity of 1250kg.

WHAT ARE NESTABLE PALLETS MADE FROM

Typically, nestable plastic pallets are made from the same materials as other types of plastic pallets, namely high-density polyethylene (HDPE) or polypropylene (PP). goplasticpallets.com's nestable pallets, for example, are made from 100 per cent recycled HDPE plastic, so they can also be recycled at the end of their life.

WHY USE NESTABLE PLASTIC PALLETS?

SAVE ON TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Nestable pallets offer considerable space-saving in warehouses. Best of all, they provide significant savings on return journeys when empty. For example, you can typically load a 13.6m trailer with up to 1450 nestable plastic pallets (each 1200x1000mm stack will be 50/55 units), compared to just 400/450 wooden pallets (in stacks of 15/18).

INCREASE BULK STORAGE

Bulk storage of pallets in a warehouse is much more feasible with nestable pallets. Thanks to their nesting capacity, it is possible to optimise warehouse space and, in some cases, may even enable the use of smaller premises.

RAMP UP SUSTAINABILITY CREDENTIALS

Plastic pallets made from recyclable plastic are an excellent option for companies looking to reduce their carbon footprint. Unlike wooden pallets, they don't contribute to deforestation. Research by Deloitte shows that consumers are increasingly making conscious decisions with sustainability and the environment in mind, so opting to use recyclable plastic pallets – with a far longer working life – positively impacts sustainability credentials.

OTHER BENEFITS

Nestable plastic pallets have several additional benefits. **These include:**

- Less fragile
- Less vulnerable to impact damage
- More hygienic and don't absorb liquid spills or moisture
- Made from contamination-free materials and have a smooth surface
- Logistically efficient as they stack tightly together and save space
- Economical
- Lightweight
- Reusable and have a long lifespan of 10+ years
- An eco-friendly option when made from recyclable plastic

What industries use nestable pallets? Nestable plastic pallets are popular in many sectors, including manufacturing, distribution, and retail. Because they are made from HDPE or PP, they are sturdy, resistant to wear and tear, lightweight and easy to handle. These characteristics make them highly versatile and practical for various applications.

Here's a snapshot of some key industries using nestable plastic pallets for logistics and storage and the advantages this type of pallet brings to each of them.



WAREHOUSING

During the pandemic, wooden pallets became short in supply. As a result, many warehouses upgraded their conventional racking systems to accommodate different pallet options. Conventional racking systems accommodate pallets on runners, with pallets sitting across the beams. Such systems exclude pallets with feet as they can slip off the framework. But decking racking beams with steel or timber makes a solid, sturdy storage platform, giving much greater flexibility over pallet choice.

With products stacking up during the pandemic, space-saving solutions became critical, and with wooden pallets in short supply, plastic pallets, especially nestable ones, offered a viable alternative.

Nestable plastic pallets come with many benefits, a key one being the entry price. Nestable pallets are comparable to the cost of a new wooden pallet and considerably cheaper than a five-runner plastic pallet.

The most significant benefit, however, comes from the stacking capabilities of nestable pallets when empty, which transforms warehouse spaces and dramatically improves transportation efficiencies. For these reasons, nestable plastic pallets are becoming more popular in warehouse operations.



RETAIL

Point-of-sale nestable plastic pallets are much more aesthetically appealing than wooden pallets, so they look more attractive on the shop floor. This makes them ideal for supermarkets, garden and hardware stores, and other similar retail outlets.

When empty, nestable pallets are lightweight for shop workers to handle, and they nest securely inside each other for their return to the warehouse, saving valuable storage space. They are also easy to handle and convenient, enabling regular point-of-sale rotation.

Recyclable plastic nestable pallets also bring sustainability and circularity to a retailer's business, which is increasingly vital for consumer loyalty.

And for food, dairy and pharmaceutical retailers, plastic pallets ensure that products are transported and stored via a highly hygienic option.

DISTRIBUTION AND EXPORTING



Nestable export plastic pallets bring several benefits for exporters and airfreight. The most substantial benefit comes from their composition - the plastic itself.

It means they are exempt from heat treatment regulations imposed on wooden pallets, thus removing the risk and hassle of consignments getting delayed by customs at ports.

Under the global ISPM 15 safety standard, wooden pallets and timber packaging must be heated or fumigated to kill wood-borne pests and diseases. These regulations are prompting many distributors to consider using plastic pallets instead.

In addition, nestable plastic pallets are low in weight, and pallet weight is extremely important for shipping. Therefore, a lightweight plastic pallet will attract much lower shipping costs across all modes of transportation. And, as already highlighted, plastic nestable pallets offer unique space-saving capabilities on return journeys.



MEDIUM DUTY PLASTIC PALLETS

Plastic pallets have become an indispensable tool in the intricate landscape of logistics and supply chain management, playing a crucial role in streamlining storage and transportation processes.

Among the diverse range of pallet options currently available, medium duty plastic pallets offer an economical solution when it comes to handling and shipping moderate weight loads. This makes them a popular choice with our customers looking for a strong, reliable pallet that can stand the test of time.

COST-EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE-WEIGHT EXCELLENCE

Medium duty plastic pallets are renowned for their outstanding performance-weight ratio, and value for money over their prolonged lifespan. Designed with efficiency in mind, these pallets excel in block stacking and racking, as well as integration into some automated systems.

If you are looking for a suitable solution to rack certain products or materials, we recommend using a medium duty plastic pallet IF your intended load does NOT exceed 800kg. If you plan to rack heavier items, with a total load in excess of 800kg, then we recommend using a heavy duty plastic pallet.

Despite their moderate weight, medium duty plastic pallets maintain robust strength and functionality, making them a smart choice for cost-conscious logistics and operations managers. In addition, many of these are also made from recycled materials, and can be recycled at the end of their lifespan, which helps to green your supply chain.

AN ECONOMICAL SOLUTION FOR MODERATE WEIGHT LOADS

Medium duty plastic pallets are ideal for repeated use and can last up to and beyond 10 years, within certain applications. Their blend of durability and cost-effectiveness positions them as the go-to option for businesses looking to enhance their handling and storage capabilities without excessive expenditure. The adaptability of these pallets means they are equally effective in warehouses, manufacturing settings and distribution centres. Over the years, we have worked with countless clients – many of them industry-leading names across multiple sectors – who continue to make huge efficiency gains through their successful use of medium duty plastic pallets.

MEETING INDUSTRY STANDARDS

goplasticpallets.com is committed to supplying medium duty plastic pallets that not only meet but exceed industry standards. Quality and compliance are at the forefront of our offering, ensuring that each pallet is designed to handle specific loads. Our manufacturing partners use ISO 8611-2:2021, which specifies the performance requirements to establish nominal loads for new flat pallets in various handling environments and the performance requirements for tests with payloads.

POPULAR PRODUCTS

Our diverse range of medium duty plastic pallets includes a range of different sizes and options – from full perimeter to non-perimeter, open deck to closed deck, and those incorporating different numbers of runners.

Through our partnership with Smart-Flow, we offer a versatile range of state-of-the-art, medium duty plastic pallets. These products - made from 100% recycled HDPE - can hold considerable loads when racked. This includes the SF 1210 M5R, one of our best sellers. This pallet has a dynamic load capacity of 1000kg, a static load capacity of 4000kg and a racking load capacity of up to 500kg.

In 2023, we also added two new medium duty general use pallets to the UK's largest range of plastic pallets and boxes - the Cabka Eco C5 3R and the Cabka Eco C5 6R. Measuring 1100mm x 1100mm x 150mm, the Eco pallets have been primarily designed to handle block stacked 25kg sacks of granular materials, powders and other ingredients, as well as chemical drums. The Cabka Eco C5 3R (featuring three runners and weighing 12.5kg) and the Cabka Eco C5 6R (boasting six runners and weighing 14.5kg) are robust and durable pallets, capable of handling 2800kg in static load and 1400kg in dynamic load. Both pallets also have a racking load of 250kg and feature reinforced corners for increased impact resistance.

CONCLUSION

Medium duty plastic pallets are a fantastic asset for businesses looking to optimise their logistics and storage operations. With an emphasis on cost-efficiency, durability, and versatility, these pallets are equipped to comfortably manage moderate loads over a prolonged lifespan.

HEAVY DUTY PLASTIC PALLETS

In the demanding world of logistics, warehousing and supply chain management, the need for robust solutions to handle heavy loads is paramount. Heavy duty plastic pallets, known for their incredible strength and longevity, have become essential in helping businesses to meet these rigorous demands. Designed for repeated use over long periods of time, these pallets are not only a testament to their durability, but also to the commitment towards sustainable practices, with many options made from recycled plastic.

A VERSATILE RANGE FOR DIVERSE APPLICATIONS

Our heavy duty plastic pallets come in a variety of configurations, including Euro size (1200mm x 800mm) and UK size (1200mm x 1000mm), with open and closed deck and three and five runner options. This versatility ensures that whatever your specific requirements may be - from automation to warehousing to export - there's a pallet in our range that's tailored to your needs. The wide range of applications these pallets cover is a clear indicator of their adaptability and efficiency in different operational environments.

EASE OF USE AND TRANSPORTATION

One of the standout features of our heavy duty plastic pallets is the ease with which they can be moved and handled. Designed for easy forklift or pallet truck entry, these pallets ensure smooth transportation of goods, significantly reducing the risk of damage during handling. This user-friendly design is a key factor in their popularity, making them a preferred choice for businesses looking to streamline and strengthen their logistics operations.

SUSTAINABILITY MEETS DURABILITY

In an age where environmental considerations are as important as operational efficiency, our heavy duty plastic pallets strike the perfect balance. Many of our pallets are manufactured from recycled plastic, offering a sustainable solution without compromising on strength or durability. This commitment to sustainability reflects our dedication to not just meeting but exceeding the expectations of environmentally conscious businesses.

PERFECT FOR RACKING AND AUTOMATION

Our extensive range of heavy-duty plastic pallets are not only strong and dimensionally stable but also impact resistant, making them capable of withstanding the rigours of heavy-duty applications in high rack warehouses or automated systems.

Take our APB 1210 Pool Closed 5R Blue, for instance, one of our best sellers. Manufactured from recycled HDPE plastic, this heavy duty 1200mm x 1000mm x 160mm plastic pallet is proven for long term use in multi-trip supply chain scenarios. Its super strength means that its capable of storing static loads of 5000kg, dynamic loads of 2500kg and up to 1250kg in racking. The capabilities of this pallet when racked provides logistics managers with a number of options for optimising their storage and transportation strategies, ensuring that even the heaviest loads can be accommodated with ease and efficiency.

CONCLUSION

Heavy duty plastic pallets are an essential asset for businesses requiring reliable, durable, and sustainable solutions for handling heavy loads. With an emphasis on versatility, ease of use, and environmental responsibility, these pallets are designed to meet the challenges of modern logistics and industrial applications.





HYGIENIC PALLETS

Hygienic pallets form a key part of our product portfolio at goplasticpallets.com. For many years, we have supplied some of the biggest names across multiple sectors with a range of hygienic pallets to perfectly fit their applications and work seamlessly within their supply chains.

WHAT SETS HYGIENIC PALLETS APART FROM REGULAR PALLETS?

Hygienic pallets are uniquely tailored to meet stringent hygiene regulations, especially in industries like pharmaceuticals, retail, food manufacturing and chemicals. What truly sets them apart is their design. They have completely smooth and closed surfaces, ensuring there's minimal opportunity for bacteria to hide and grow. This design feature makes them particularly ideal for environments that demand high standards of cleanliness, such as clean rooms or food processing and packing lines.

The majority of the hygienic pallets we sell are fully "closed" and made from virgin plastic rather than recycled plastic. Fully "closed" means that all the rib structures of the pallet, the plastic shapes that help to give the pallet its strength and rigidity, are encapsulated on the inside of the pallet. In production areas where pallets could come into direct contact with food, a food safety standard, such as the British Retail Consortium (BRC), may specify the use of a virgin grade plastic to ensure source traceability of the material and conformity to the accreditation of that specific process.

DO SOME INDUSTRIES EXCLUSIVELY USE HYGIENIC PALLETS?

Not always. Recycled plastic pallets may be used at some point within their supply chains, but when a product comes into direct contact with a pallet - most commonly during the processing/manufacturing phase - it will almost always be a hygienic virgin grade plastic pallet. For example, a food manufacturer will use hygienic pallets on their production lines, but once the foodstuff is finished and has been placed in consumer-ready packaging, for distribution, it might be stored on a recycled material plastic pallet.

Wooden pallets aren't typically allowed within these "high care" production areas. As wood is porous it can easily become cross contaminated. In addition, wooden pallets don't work as well on automated systems, they aren't as strong and consistent in size and structure. They can also give up splinters and they also are held together by nails.

The use of a closed deck hygienic plastic pallet eliminates these issues. It is a piece of equipment that a GMP (Good Manufacturing Process) can be written around. This ensures the quality and traceability of the manufacturing processes, maintenance and quality checks in a business.



HOW LONG WOULD A HYGIENIC PALLET LAST?

These products are made by the injection moulding process and are therefore incredibly strong and consistent. However, it's hard to give a definitive answer, as there are so many variables that can contribute to the overall lifespan of a pallet: How are they used? How often? What materials handling equipment does a company use? Where are they kept? Are they cleaned regularly and by what method? Are they used in automated systems or handled manually? However, typically, we expect a hygienic pallet to last at least around 10 years.



WASHING HYGIENIC PALLETS

Closed deck plastic pallets can be cleaned either manually or by using an automated pallet wash machine, to clean to a very high standard in the food or pharmaceutical production sectors. These pallets have very smooth surfaces, which ensures that bacteria cannot build-up during use, and they can be washed, and, equally importantly, be dried consistently.

Modern pallet wash machines can use low temperature wash cycles with high specification detergents to clean the pallets to a consistent standard. A final rinse cycle at 85 degrees is normal, enabling the residual heat to effectively dry the pallets, ready for re-use.

ATP (adenosine triphosphate) "swab testing" regimes can be implemented to verify cleanliness and recorded as part of a conformity standard process within BRC accreditation to ensure safe use and best practice.



VALUE-ADDED TECHNOLOGY

Modern hygienic pallets can be equipped with tracking technology, allowing for real-time location and temperature monitoring. This is especially beneficial in industries where precise tracking is crucial, such as pharmaceuticals and retail. Additionally, their consistent design and dimensions make them ideal for automated systems, ensuring efficient operations.



SUSTAINABILITY

While hygienic pallets are made from virgin plastic to meet specific industry standards, it's essential to note that they are 100% recyclable. At the end of their long service life, these pallets can be transformed into brand new plastic pallets, promoting a circular and sustainable economy.



DIFFERENT MODELS OF HYGIENIC PALLETS

Each of the hygienic pallets we offer are manufactured by our long-standing and exclusive partner Cabka. They produce plastic pallets in their factories in accordance with ISO 9001 standards, giving users of this high specification pallet complete peace of mind and traceability of the material that the pallet is made from and the manufacturing parameters in the production cycle.

We have a variety of sizes and different features to fit any application. **Here's a brief overview of these excellent Cabka Hygienic products:**

- 1208 3R: This is a smooth, non-perimeter, recycled hygienic plastic pallet with dimensions of 1200mm x 800mm. It features three runners.
- 1208 9F: A Euro-size hygienic plastic pallet on nine feet, also measuring 1200mm x 800mm
- 1210 3R: A UK size (1200mm x 1000mm) hygienic plastic pallet, with three runners
- 1210 5R: This is a 1200mm x 1000mm pallet, but this time with five runners

All of these closed deck pallets are available in a variety of colours. Different coloured pallets can be used to segregate different types of products. For instance, a company might use blue pallets for raw materials and red pallets for finished products. This helps in reducing the risk of cross-contamination and ensures a smooth workflow. Other reasons for choosing different colours could be for aesthetic reasons or for branding/marketing purposes.



WHY USE PLASTIC PALLETS INSTEAD OF WOODEN PALLETS FOR EXPORTS?

In 2024, cost savings in the logistics industry are now more critical than ever. Fuel and machinery market price increases and many other budgetary pressures are pushing up operational costs across the sector. Now, across the supply chain, organisations are doubling down to find ways to reduce their logistics and transportation costs – especially when it comes to exporting goods.

Exporters, constantly striving to maintain a competitive edge in the global market, are seeking opportunities to minimise their costs to maximise profitability. Areas where they focus their cost-saving efforts include logistics and transportation (freight shipping by sea or rail, for example), where optimising routes, consolidation of shipments, and leveraging economies of scale can lead to significant savings. Additionally, exporters will constantly be reviewing warehousing services, how they utilise automation, and make better use of space and storage density. Since pallets are essential to any business that ships products, it is no wonder everyone is asking the question: are plastic pallets better than wood?

WHY PLASTIC PALLETS ARE SUCH A GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO WOODEN PALLETS

Wooden pallets have long been the default choice, but now plastic pallets are a viable and cost-effective alternative. There are several advantages of using plastic pallets over wooden ones for exports and imports.



STRENGTH AND DURABILITY

Plastic pallets offer supreme strength and reliability and have a proven track record in all types of automated handling scenarios. They have a long working life through many cycles in the supply chain, whilst they are also fully recyclable, delivering a true return on investment and helping your business become more sustainable. Typically lasting far longer than their wooden counterparts, plastic pallets are ideal for frequent shipments to the same customer.



VERSATILITY

Plastic pallets come in a vast range of types and sizes. This means there is a pallet style to suit a wide range of environments and purposes. Unfortunately, there's no global standard for pallets, so different countries may use different standard pallet sizes – standard pallets in Europe, for example, are defined by their dimensions of 1200mm x 800mm, whilst the UK standard is 1200mm x 1000mm.



FREIGHT COSTS

Plastic pallets are lighter than wooden units (they tend to be about 30% lighter than wood pallets of the same size and design), so freight rates are generally lower, whether by road, rail, sea or air, making them ideal for exports. In addition, plastic pallets will remain in use for many more cycles through the supply chain, providing a true return on investment over several years.

While plastic pallets may have a higher upfront cost, this is usually mitigated by a significantly lower cost per trip because they are lighter. For example, some of our lightweight pallets weigh just 3.2kg.



EXEMPTION FROM ISPM15 REGULATIONS

The use of plastic pallets for exports is growing. Our export plastic pallets are exempt from the ISPM15 rules for heat-treated wood packaging, making them a cost-effective alternative to wooden pallets for exports. Nearly all countries worldwide adhere to the ISPM15 regulations to prevent the spread of pests from one country to another. Unlike wooden pallets, plastic pallets don't need heat treatment or fumigation before export and therefore won't suffer any inspection delays.



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

With the world's eyes on climate change and environmental matters, everything in business increasingly has an environmental calculation attached. Plastic pallets last longer and are recyclable, so they are environmentally friendly.

At goplasticpallets.com, we're extremely "sustainability aware", so much so that it is engrained across the entire business – from the materials we use, to product application, to how they're recycled at the end of their lifecycle. In fact, 93% of our plastic pallets are made from 100% recycled materials. Furthermore, when our pallets reach the end of their working life, they can be collected or sent back. They then get granulated and moulded into new pallets.

By using plastic pallets, you will be demonstrating your own commitment to the environment, improving your own reputation and helping you to attract like-minded customers.



SAFE AND EASY TO HANDLE

Plastic pallets are safe and easy to handle. Unlike wooden pallets, there are no nails, sharp edges or splinters, this can help to minimise damage to products that are being shipped on the pallet. When exporting goods, it's essential to make sure pallets are safe to handle throughout the shipment journey and sturdy enough to support the load.

NESTABILITY

Nestable plastic pallets reduce storage volume considerably because they can be 'nested' into tall stacks when being stored or in transit when empty.

Favoured by the food and pharma industries: Because plastic pallets are easily cleaned, unaffected by moisture, weak acids and alkalis, and meet stringent hygiene requirements, particular sectors, such as food, agriculture, retail and pharmaceuticals, favour them.



PLASTIC PACKAGING TAX (PPT) IN 2024

The Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) was dreamt up with good intentions as a policy lever to change behaviours around single-use plastics and encourage the use of recycled plastic instead of new plastic within packaging. The harmful impact of single-use plastics on the environment has been extensively reported for all to see. Something had to change.

But two years after its introduction, how effective is the tax, and has it been fairly implemented to ensure the right businesses in the supply chain are encouraged to change their ways?

WHAT IS THE PLASTIC PACKAGING TAX?

PPT was introduced in the UK on 1st April 2022. The tax aims to reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastics and encourage the use of recycled plastic. It applies to businesses that manufacture or import ten or more tonnes of plastic packaging into the UK over 12 months that does not contain at least 30% recycled plastic. Note that packaging made of at least 30% recycled plastic still counts towards the 10-tonne registration threshold.

The tax covers consumer goods, such as cling film, bin bags, and party cups, and plastic packaging components that hold food and goods, including plastic used in the transport of multiple items.

Upon the introduction of the tax, the charge was £200 per tonne (April 2022), which increased to £210.82 per tonne (April 2023). In April 2024, the tax will rise to £217.85 per tonne.

WHO PAYS PLASTIC PACKAGING TAX?

Liability for the tax falls with the business manufacturing or importing the qualifying packaging. For UK manufacturers, the one hit by the tax is the one that completes the 'last substantial modification' to the plastic packaging component. Businesses liable must submit quarterly returns to HMRC.

HOW IS THE PLASTIC PACKAGING TAX GOING SO FAR? IS IT FAIR?

HMRC originally forecast that 20,000 manufacturers and importers of plastic packaging would register for PPT in its first year. However, we submitted a Freedom of Information request to check how many businesses had registered. Our enquiry revealed that only 3,729 organisations had signed up to 31st March 2023 (the last day of the first full year of PPT).

This suggests a need for more clarity surrounding the original criteria of PPT. Many people are still asking Google, "What is the Plastic Packaging Tax in the UK in 2023?"

We believe the tax has been poorly thought out. A haphazard consultation process and a lack of clear guidelines resulted in HMRC giving answers on what qualifies as taxable packaging on a case-by-case basis. The figures suggest many businesses still haven't registered or enforcement is poor.

A lack of clarity and confused logic and consistency means some firms like ours - a key supplier to the logistics and supply chain sectors - are unfairly targeted for supplying virgin plastic products that can remain in a supply chain for up to 10 years (and in some cases longer), depending on how they are used and handled.

For full transparency, in the first year of PPT, the annual cost to our business stood around the £250,000 mark. This money could have been better spent investing in plans for further growth, more R&D, and rewarding and developing our brilliant people.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND PLASTIC PALLETS?

It's plain to see that reusable plastic pallets are significantly different from single-use plastics like plastic water bottles, food packaging, and shrink wrap and, therefore, shouldn't be treated the same way. But for PPT, they are treated the same.

It just doesn't make sense when, for example, plastic cases for reading glasses or the case a drill is sold and stored in receives exemption from PPT.

In addition, goplasticpallets.com has pioneered an industry-leading recycling scheme, which hasn't been considered. Unlike single-use plastics, none of our products end up in landfills or the ocean.

Without a doubt, there is an undue burden on our environmentally-friendly plastic pallets. Because they can typically last for around 10 years, they are a viable eco-friendly alternative to traditional wooden pallets. We are contributing positively to sustainable supply chains and reducing deforestation, yet we are being penalised. Our virgin plastic pallets (an essential component of the food supply chain) are classified the same as single-use plastics when, in fact, they are part of the circular economy.

HOW DOES THE PLASTIC PACKAGING TAX IMPACT THE SUPPLY CHAIN?

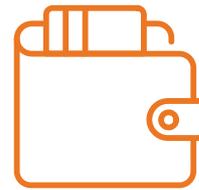
Understanding PPT exposure requires enterprise-wide collaboration and insight across the supply chain. A Forbes article on how the UK plastic tax is reshaping global supply chains explains, "To calculate the tax liability on a single product, teams company-wide have to factor in every plastic component of its packaging and the impact of its recyclability across the entire internal and external supply chain."

The idea of PPT is generally good – it should drive businesses to look at ways to mitigate single-use plastics and consider reusable rather than single-trip plastic packaging where possible. This might involve changing packaging altogether, switching to paper-based packaging or reusable plastics, reducing overall packaging use, or introducing schemes to return packaging.

Circular economy partnerships will start to grow, and that is where goplasticpallets.com will benefit because customers can see how we work. We make plastic pallets and crates from more than 30% recyclable materials or virgin plastic (required in several industries, including food, pharma, retail and chemicals). They can be cleaned to specified standards and reused for a significant number of years. Add in the fact that we provide a pallet recycling service, and we are a credible plastic pallet supplier supporting the growth of the circular economy.

Over 93% of our plastic pallets are made from recycled plastic, which means we are leading the way to sustainable, multi-use, recycled plastic pallets and an environmentally conscious supply chain.

WHAT OTHER IMPACTS ARE THERE?



COST INCREASE

Of course, when it comes to any sort of tax, costs will inevitably rise, and this will impact everyone across the supply chain.

In terms of plastic pallets and pallet boxes, we have worked hard to limit any price rises wherever possible, and we are pleased our customers still have access to incredibly competitive prices for innovative products that deliver long-term ROI.



DATA CAPTURE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

Businesses directly impacted by PPT must capture the data required to report to HMRC. This exercise isn't as straightforward as it seems. The tax has placed significant additional administrative requirements on organisations, which has further cost implications.

Our customers purchasing products with less than 30% recycled material can be rest assured that we take care of all the necessary administration and declarations to make quarterly payments to HMRC – essentially making the products "PPT Tax Paid", similar to alcohol, cigarettes and petrol.

This provides our customer base with peace of mind, which will become increasingly important as we have already heard from several clients who have been contacted by HMRC to see if they are due to pay PPT. Thankfully, they are not, but we always welcome our contacts to reach out to us if they have any questions or queries.



OUR INDUSTRY-LEADING RECYCLING SCHEME

goplasticpallets.com has been on a long-term mission to create responsible supply chains through a number of initiatives, including the launch of a first-of-its-kind recycling scheme in 2019. As part of this commitment, the company promises to collect and recycle all plastic pallets and boxes at the end of their service lives – regardless of who supplied them.

When the scheme was introduced four years ago, we made a pledge to recycle 1,500 tonnes of plastic by 2025. It's with great pride that we can say that we surpassed this figure before the end of 2023!

Jim Hardisty, Managing Director of **goplasticpallets.com**, said:

“

“Our pioneering recycling scheme is designed to ensure that plastic pallets are reused and recycled, reducing the need for new resources and contributing to a circular economy. We guarantee to take full responsibility for recycling the plastic pallets and boxes we provide, as well as recycling those from other suppliers.

We are proud to reach this massive milestone ahead of schedule. This scheme sets us apart in the UK pallet industry and demonstrates our leadership and commitment to sustainability. This is further supported by the fact that 93% of our plastic pallets are made from 100% recycled materials.

Recycling plastic is a vital practice in the fight against climate change. It helps to lower pollution, conserve the planet's natural resources, ease the demand on fossil fuel consumption, and save on fast-depleting landfill space. There is a growing desire to promote sustainable supply chains, however, I would like to see even more businesses commit to stricter recycling targets and become more accountable for achieving their goals.”

”



GoPlasticPallets.com – All Pallets Ltd
Unit 6, Alder Close
Eastbourne
BN23 6QF
East Sussex

+44 (0)1323 744057
sales@goplasticpallets.com
www.goplasticpallets.com

