

Helping You Decide About...

ECO-CONSCIOUS PACKAGING SUPPLIERS

COVID-19 heightened sustainable packaging concerns and a majority of recent survey respondents stated they would even pay more for sustainable packaging. Significantly, the survey concluded, "The pandemic is reshaping ...views about sustainable packaging materials in ways that will force the whole value chain to act quickly."



KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is recognized as one of the greatest challenges facing the global packaging industry—a bigger concern than costs and packaging availability. So packaging providers must understand the sustainable circular economy and its role in remaining competitive today. Where packaging providers cooperate with their value-chain partners in both providing and advertising their sustainable packaging they usually increase brand loyalty.

CHOOSE TRUSTED MANUFACTURERS

It is essential to understand that industrial containers like steel and plastic drums, intermediate bulk containers and related containers that can be reconditioned, remanufactured or recycled are a vital force in sustainable packaging today. Look for members of the packaging industry, like those with whom Con-Tech works, that meet national requirements and can provide verifiable practices.

SEE HOW THE COMPANIES ARE REGULATED

Know that the best use of an industrial container is its reuse. Organizations of manufacturers of reconditioned and new steel, plastic, and fiber drums, as well as intermediate bulk containers, work hard on their members' compliance with the myriad rules governing manufacturing, reconditioning, and recycling processes. Manufacturers of new industrial packaging and their North American suppliers do the same while emphasizing the importance of safety and reliability.



UNDERSTAND THE PROCESSES THEY USE

Steel is the most recycled material in the world. It can be continually recycled without losing quality, conserving valuable resources and diverting them from waste streams to recycling streams. The steel drum industry claims that steel drums are the safest and most environmentally sound packaging in the world as they can be reused, reconditioned and recycled.

In steel drum reconditioning, empty, used drums are cleaned, re-shaped, assembled with the appropriate lid, drum ring and/or fittings, painted and recoated where needed. The method through which a drum is cleaned and reconditioned depends upon the drum's prior contents and its construction.

All steel drums have the heads removed prior to reconditioning. Steel drums that contained paints and related items are burned in drum furnaces at high heats, while open head steel drums which previously housed solvents and similar items are washed with high-pressure alkaline-based solutions and steam. After cleaning, steel drums are straightened, reshaped and blasted with steel shot before painting, recoating and assembling with the appropriate drum lid, drum ring and/or drum fitting.

A standard steel drum can be reused from three to seven times, depending on its condition and gauge. Steel drums that can no longer be reconditioned can be sanitized and recycled to create new steel.

Poly drums are reconditioned with alternating submersion and high-pressure alkaline solutions, while fiber drums are usually cleaned with air, high-pressure steam and/or alkaline rinses and then visually inspected before reassembly. A plastic drum can be reused up to eight times typically.

Visual inspection and leak testing to satisfy DOT and UN regulations are part of the final reconditioning process of all steel and poly drums. Neither container will be released without meeting these exacting standards.

Then drum closures for reconditioned drums, like those provided by Con-Tech, are used to seal these drums in order to protect the contents against air, dirt, liquid and other contaminants during transportation and storage. Reconditioned drum closures also maintain the shelf life of the contents and provide a means of reclosing and reusing the drum. The reconditioned container closures are covered with cap seals to prevent tampering and further protect the contents.

About 75% of plastic IBCs can be reconditioned by being washed by using hot pressurized water and chemicals. After washing, IBCs are further checked and about those not meeting standards are removed. A typical plastic IBC lifespan is 5 uses.

For IBCs, there are more options, which include exchanging components, such as valves that were in contact with the materials transported. In some cases, the used IBC bottle must be replaced in a process known as “rebotting.” The used bottle is then recycled.

WORK WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE SUPPLIERS

Look for experienced suppliers like Con-Tech that help companies in many different industries with their industrial packaging needs. What makes Con-Tech different than other industrial packaging outsourcers is our attention to detail and our knowledge of your industry. Con-Tech services a range of industries whether automotive; beer and brewery; building and construction; chemical; consumer products; containers; food, fragrances and beverage; industrial packaging; intermediate bulk container and tote tanks; marine and shipbuilding; oil and gas; packaging; stairways and ladders; steel and plastic drum; transportation; or numerous others.

Make sure the supplier continues to look for other opportunities in more emerging markets. Our team is in constant contact with suppliers and customers to ensure we continue to offer the best products and services at the most affordable prices possible. We are tenacious and thrifty and we use our expertise to stay with you every step of the process.

