

Preventing Transport Packaging Waste

Materials such as plastic pallet wrap, cardboard boxes, and wooden pallets are essential for securely transporting goods and products across the supply chain. However, these materials are typically discarded after just one use, generating significant packaging waste.

Plastic film in particular has become a large part of our waste stream. According to the latest Alameda County Waste Characterization study, plastic film — including stretch wrap used to secure pallet loads — makes up roughly half the weight of all plastics disposed by businesses in Alameda County. Film plastic is also a top contaminant in organics collection bins, creating additional processing and health issues for compost facilities and our communities.

Reusable Alternatives

State and local efforts are underway to address transport packaging waste, primarily by switching to more sustainable reusable packaging alternatives. California’s SB 54 legislation requires a 25 percent reduction in single-use plastic packaging by 2032, with at least 4 percent coming from reuse/refill systems. Transitioning to reusable transport packaging offers businesses a clear path to meet these requirements while reducing waste and cutting costs.

Support for Implementation

StopWaste offers grants and technical assistance to help businesses transition to reusable transport packaging. Available to nonprofits, businesses, institutions, and school districts, these grants fund reusable, durable alternatives to replace disposable packaging, such as pallet wraps, pallets, boxes, and dunnage, used in manufacturing, transportation and/or distribution. This year’s focus is on reusable pallet wraps. Once reusables are in place, organizations often see long-term cost savings by eliminating (or significantly reducing) recurring costs for packaging materials. Employees also report ergonomic benefits from less bending and back strain.

For more information on available resources and funding opportunities, visit www.StopWaste.org/rtp-grants.

Traditional Pallet Wrap



1 Trip

Reusable Alternative



1-5+ Years

Switching from disposable to reusable transport packaging materials, such as reusable pallet wraps, helps reduce waste, save money, improve worker ergonomics, and meet new state guidelines for reducing plastic waste.

Success Stories:



Drakes Brewing Company uses reusable wraps and large bands to secure pallet loads, saving 290,000 square feet of plastic wrap annually.



Full Belly Farm achieved \$14,000 annual savings and eliminated 8,330 waxed cardboard boxes per year by switching to reusable crates.



Philz Coffee switched low-grade wood pallets for durable plastic pallets, eliminating the purchase of 3,000+ pallets and cutting 65,000 pounds of pallet waste each year.

Multiple companies report 100%+ return on investment within the first year.

For more success stories, visit UseReusables.org.