

Checklist: Storing and Shipping Wood Products

Here's a checklist of items to help keep product damage to a minimum while increasing your profits. It is important to view the overall picture in order to give an account of the full shipping and packaging costs incurred by your company. Minimizing the overall weight and volume of the package will result in energy saving resources needed to transport the package.

Storing the Product

- ___ Evaluate the weight of your product and the load it can take if other items are stacked on top of it.
- ___ Is the relative humidity similar to that in the rest of your plant? Will wood products expand/contract beyond desired levels?

Assessing the Packaging

Much can be learned from assessing past damages from shipping. In doing so, check out current packaging uses as well to determine best cost saving practices:

- ___ Type of pallet (wood, metal, corrugated, plastic; evaluate: reuse, repair, recycle capabilities)
- ___ Packing material (paper, polystyrene, bioplastics [typically corn based and biodegradable])
- ___ Closure material (staples, banding-metal/plastic, adhesives)
- ___ Skid containment (shrink wrap; self-sticking stretchable film tapes)
- ___ Is there a different way to package item to prevent damage?
- ___ Would additional labeling aid in the situation?
- ___ Can weight be added to the top of your packaged product (label appropriately)?
- ___ Was there water damage that could have been avoided?
- ___ What is the relative humidity of your warehouse? shipping trucks? Does it affect your finished product?
- ___ Do you have too much or too little packaging?