

Alternatives to Wood Packaging Material

At Timber Creek we are constantly finding better ways to meet or exceed wood packaging standards. With the new “Bark Free” regulations for exports to the European Union, it gives us a chance to discuss alternatives to solid wood with our customers and potential customers. These options are identified and discussed in greater detail below.

Plastic Pallets



Timber Creek Resource has a variety of pre-manufactured plastic pallets available for distribution in quantities ranging from 20 to full truckloads. If your products or materials are currently being packaged on pallets for export to other countries, plastic pallets may be a viable option in circumventing the regulations on wood packaging materials.

Engineered Wood Packaging

Engineered Wood, also known as man-made or composite wood, is a term used to identify the wide variety of products that can be manufactured from wood fibers or veneers. These fibers, veneers, or particles are generally combined through a unique application of heat, pressure, and adhesives.

A Viable Alternative

When a customer is interested in an alternative to solid wood or interested in ways around ISPM 15 regulations, Timber Creek may suggest the use of engineered wood. We use engineered materials in designs and applications similar to our solid wood products. Because of the methods used during the manufacturing process, these engineered products are not subject to the same international regulations as solid wood packaging material. In other words, the considerations for ISPM 15 (bark free, heat treating, stamping requirements) are not applicable with engineered wood packaging material.

Types of Engineered Wood

Packaging manufactured from any combination of engineered wood materials is exempt from ISPM 15 regulations, and therefore a viable alternative to solid wood construction of export packaging.

- **Parallel Strand Lumber (PSL):** Consists of long veneer strands laid in parallel formation and bonded together with an adhesive. PSL is available in multiple widths, lengths, and thicknesses and can be cut/used like solid lumber.
- **Oriented Strand Board (OSB):** Made by layering strands or flakes of wood in specific orientations then applying wax and adhesive resin under heat and pressure. OSB is a common panel product available in multiple thicknesses, generally available in 4x8 sheets, and can be remanufactured to any smaller dimension.
- **Hardboard:** Created when exploded wood fiber is highly compressed to an approximate density of 60 lbs/cubic foot – about twice as dense as particle board – an internal bonding agent is not always necessary. Hardboard is a common panel product generally available in 4x8 sheets, and can be remanufactured to any smaller dimension.
- **Plywood:** Made by bonding thin wood veneers through a combination of heat, pressure, and adhesive. Plywood is a common panel product available in multiple thicknesses, generally available in 4x8 sheets, and can be remanufactured to any smaller dimension.