

Cardboard Boxes Guide



**What will
you protect?**

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Cardboard Boxes

Cardboard boxes are the most popular packaging product in the world. Billions are made each year, and it's no surprise cardboard boxes are so popular! They're versatile, can be used to protect and ship almost any product, are made from a renewable material, and can be recycled!

At Macfarlane Packaging, we have an extensive range of ready-to-buy cardboard boxes in different sizes and strengths to suit a wide range of applications. We can also provide advice about custom boxes, as well as automation.

In this guide you'll find information about the cardboard boxes available from Macfarlane Packaging, as well as useful guides to measuring boxes and box styles. You'll also discover recycling information and answers to commonly asked questions about cardboard boxes...

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Cardboard Box Information

How to measure a cardboard box

One of the first things you'll need to know is the size of the cardboard box (or boxes) you want.

When measuring the size of a box, we recommend using the internal dimensions. This is the usable space that your products will go in.

Cardboard box dimensions are usually expressed as: Length (L) x Width (W) x Height (H).

Length = The longest opening dimension

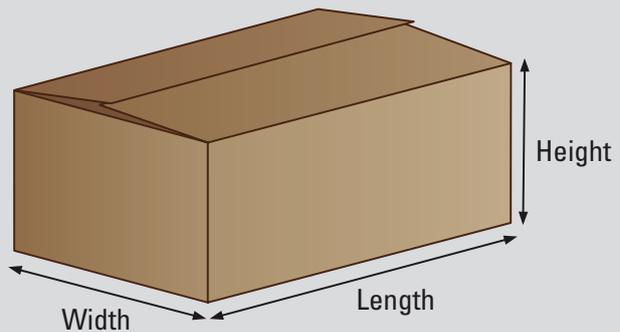
Width = The shorter opening dimension

Height = The dimension from the top of the opening to the base of the box (sometimes referred to as depth).

Most of the time, the dimensions of a cardboard box will be referred to in millimetres. For example: 600mm x 300mm x 250mm. However, many people still choose to use centimetres or even inches.

Conversion Chart

10mm = 1cm
100mm = 10cm
1000mm = 1m
1 inch = 2.54cm / 25.4mm



What are cardboard boxes made from?

Most cardboard boxes used for shipping products are made from corrugated cardboard. This type of cardboard is made from a fluted or wavy piece of paper sandwiched between two flat pieces of paper.



There are three main types of corrugated cardboard you'll come across when it comes to boxes:

- **Single wall** – one layer of fluted board is sandwiched between two sheets of liner board. This would make a single wall cardboard box.
- **Double wall** – two layers of fluting that are glued to three layers of liner board. This would make a double wall cardboard box, which is stronger than using single wall alone.
- **Triple wall** – three layers of fluting are laminated with four liner boards. This would make a triple or tri-wall box – the most heavy-weight and durable of all boxes.

These different types of corrugated cardboard influence the strength of your cardboard boxes. As do the grades of paper and type of fluting used.

Understanding board grades and fluting

Board Grades

The board grade refers to the weight, quality and type of paper material used to manufacture cardboard.

Depending on the intended use of a box, the board weight will range from 90gsm to 300gsm. This stands for grams per square metre - the heavier the weight of the paper the stronger the box will be.

It's worth noting that the GSM description of the board may relate to the performance of the board, and not the actual weight. In other words, it has the properties of a heavier material.

As well as the weight of the paper, you may hear people say cardboard is "kraft" or "test". These terms relate to if the paper used in manufacturing is virgin material (kraft) or recycled material (test). Some boxes may combine both kraft and test cardboard.



Fluting Profiles

Fluting is the wavy or fluted piece of paper inside corrugated cardboard.

The fluting helps to strengthen the walls of a cardboard box. It's what creates the stripey grain-like texture you would see when looking at a piece of cardboard.



E Flute		EC Flute	
B Flute		BC Flute	
C Flute		ER Flute	
R Flute*		RB Flute	

*R flute can also be referred to as M flute, P flute, S flute, or X flute.

It can vary in width and size and is often referred to by a letter e.g., "B flute". Single wall boxes will only have one type of fluting, but double and triple wall boxes may use multiple fluting profiles.

If you're unsure what grade and flute your current boxes are, our team of packaging experts can provide advice about what's best to protect your products. Call or email us to book an appointment with a representative from one of our regional distribution centres.

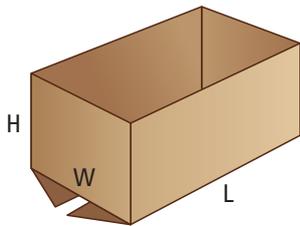
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Popular FEFCO box styles

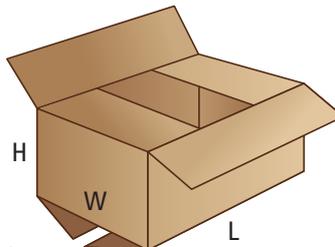
You can choose the type of box you want from internationally recognised designs called FEFCO styles. FEFCO is the European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers.

There are nine different categories of cardboard boxes, which are then broken down further into styles. Each style is given a number for easy reference. Here are some of the most popular FEFCO styles you'll encounter...



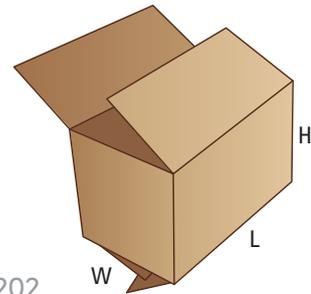
0200

An open top box with flaps meeting at the base that need to be sealed. Often linked with the **0422** lid and used for storage.



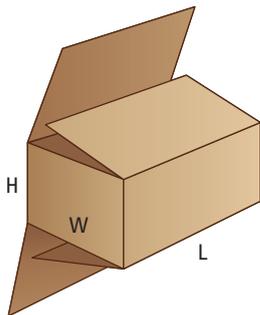
0201

The most common corrugated cardboard box. Outer flaps meet at the top and bottom and require sealing. It will not require any tooling unless it needs modification for specialist erecting machines. This is the most economical way to pack most products. The side seam is usually glued but can be stitched. Stacks well.



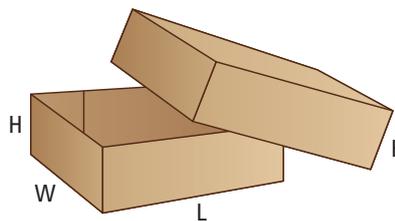
0202

Similar to **0201** but with the outer flaps overlapping by a specified amount. Ideal for boxes where extra strength and security are needed. Excellent for use with polypropylene strapping as the method of securing.



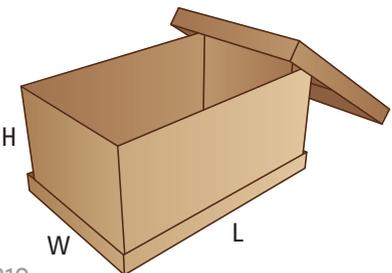
0203

Similar to the **0201** but the flaps fully cover the base and top. This gives added strength to the box, especially if taped in certain ways.



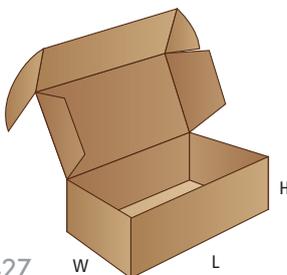
0301

Tray and lid. Used for shallow products and an economical way to purchase this format as it can be made without tooling. However, the corners of the lid and tray would need to be sealed.



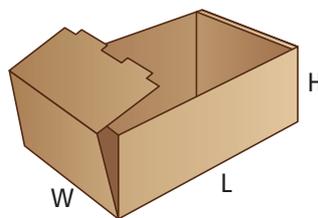
0310

A combination pack of **0501** sleeve with **0452** top and bottom caps (not featured). Generally used for pallet packs or with automated packing systems. Requires stitching or gluing of the caps.



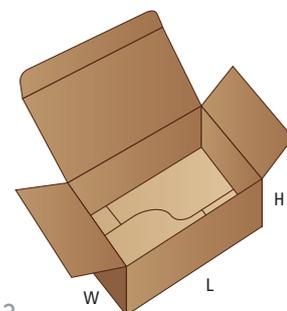
0427

Folder-type boxes and trays usually consist of only one piece of board. The bottom of the box is hinged to form two or all side walls and the cover. Sometimes referred to as a "pizza style" box.



0422

Lid for **0200** or used as a tray. This will require a tool to make but is then easily erected without sealing.



0713

Ready-glued boxes consist of basically one piece, are shipped flat and ready to use by simple setting up. 0713 style boxes are also called crash-lock boxes, as the base locks into place without the need for tape. Easy to assemble.

Products

At Macfarlane Packaging, we have hundreds of different cardboard boxes available in our protective packaging range. This includes single wall and double wall boxes, BDCM boxes, boxes for stacking on pallets and even specialist postal boxes and boxes for eCommerce.

Single Wall Cardboard Boxes

Our single wall boxes are available in over 40 sizes to meet every demand. They can hold from 2 – 15kg, depending on size and all our single wall cartons contain a minimum of 50% recycled content. All our single wall cardboard boxes use a specially designed fluting for extra durability.

We can supply these boxes in FSC material



Multi-depth case shown

Internal measurements ensure you make the right choice

Product Code	Size L x W x H (mm)	Size L x W x H (inches)	Approx. Load Guide (kg)	Pack Qty	Pallet Qty
000451	76 x 76 x 127	3 x 3 x 5	2	25	2,700
000586	102 x 102 x 102	4 x 4 x 4	2	25	2,700
000588	127 x 127 x 127	5 x 5 x 5	2	25	2,100
002056	152 x 102 x 102	6 x 4 x 4	10	25	3,500
000455	152 x 127 x 95	6 x 5 x 3 3/4	2	25	2,400
000524	152 x 152 x 152	6 x 6 x 6	5	25	3,600
000589	178 x 178 x 178	7 x 7 x 7	5	25	2,475
000526	197 x 159 x 159	7 3/4 x 6 1/4 x 6 1/4	5	25	2,475
000577	215 x 180 x 105	8.5 x 7 x 4	5	25	2,200
000528	215 x 215 x 215	8 3/4 x 8 1/2 x 8 1/2	10	25	1,650
000529	229 x 152 x 152	9 x 6 x 6	5	25	3,300
000530	230 x 230 x 130	9 x 9 x 5	5	25	1,650
000531	254 x 152 x 133	10 x 6 x 5 1/4	5	25	3,300
002057	254 x 203 x 203	10 x 8 x 8	10	25	1,650
000590	254 x 254 x 254	10 x 10 x 10	10	25	1,350
000533	280 x 215 x 205	11 x 8 1/2 x 8	10	25	1,650
002058*	305 x 229 x 152/114 (A4 Size)	12 x 9 x 6/4 1/2	10	25	1,925
003168*	305 x 229 x 229/152 (A4 Size)	12 x 9 x 9/6	10	25	1,000
100345	305 x 229 x 229 (A4 Size)	12 x 9 x 9	10	25	1,000
000038	305 x 229 x 305 (A4 Size)	12 x 9 x 12	10	25	900
000537	305 x 305 x 152	12 x 12 x 6	10	25	900
000539	305 x 305 x 255	12 x 12 x 10	10	25	900
000592	305 x 305 x 305	12 x 12 x 12	10	25	900
003231	330 x 255 x 318	13 x 10 x 12 1/2	10	25	900
000542	330 x 330 x 432	13 x 13 x 17	10	25	450
002059	381 x 254 x 254	15 x 10 x 10	10	25	900
000545	381 x 280 x 280	15 x 11 x 11	10	25	900
002062	381 x 330 x 152	15 x 13 x 6	10	25	900
000551*	406 x 356 x 203/152	16 x 14 x 8/6	10	25	450
000552*	410 x 410 x 410/330/229	16 x 16 x 16/13/9	10	25	225
001284	432 x 305 x 130	17 x 12 x 5 1/8	10	25	900
002065	432 x 318 x 268 (A3 Size)	17 x 12 1/2 x 10 1/2	10	25	900
003233	432 x 318 x 318 (A3 Size)	17 x 12 1/2 x 12 1/2	10	25	450
002070	457 x 305 x 305	18 x 12 x 12	10	25	450
001274	457 x 457 x 152	18 x 18 x 6	10	10	450
000582	508 x 305 x 305	20 x 12 x 12	10	20	320
001273	508 x 356 x 356	20 x 14 x 14	10	25	450
002073	508 x 381 x 254	20 x 15 x 10	10	25	450
000557	510 x 457 x 406	20 x 18 x 16	15	20	160
000560	610 x 457 x 305	24 x 18 x 12	15	20	320
000561	610 x 457 x 457	24 x 18 x 18	15	20	160
000562	765 x 255 x 160	30 x 10 x 6 1/4	10	25	450

Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category FAP



50% minimum recycled content

Double Wall Cardboard Boxes

Perfect for shipping or storing heavier or bulky items, our range of double wall boxes features over 30 different sizes.

Each box has two layers of corrugated cardboard for extra durability and our range can hold from 5 to 30kg loads, depending on the size of the box. All products in our double wall carton range also contain up to 75% recycled content.



The mark of responsible forestry



Internal measurements ensure you make the right choice

We can supply these boxes in FSC material

Product Code	Size L x W x H (mm)	Size L x W x H (inches)	Approx. Load Guide (kg)	Pack Qty	Pallet Qty
001563	229 x 152 x 152	9 x 6 x 6	5	15	1,080
000257	254 x 254 x 254	10 x 10 x 10	10	20	480
106757	305 x 229 x 114	12 x 9 x 4 1/2	10	20	540
002074	305 x 229 x 229 (A4 size)	12 x 9 x 9	10	20	720
000157	305 x 305 x 305	12 x 12 x 12	15	20	560
002076	350 x 350 x 350	14 x 14 x 14	20	20	240
001350	380 x 245 x 285	15 x 9 5/8 x 11 1/4	20	20	480
004481	386 x 386 x 305	15 1/4 x 15 1/4 x 12	25	20	240
002925	390 x 325 x 150	15 3/8 x 12 3/4 x 5 7/8	20	20	240
004065	406 x 356 x 356	16 x 14 x 14	20	20	240
001212	406 x 406 x 406	16 x 16 x 16	20	20	120
000467	457 x 305 x 254	18 x 12 x 10	25	20	480
000162	457 x 305 x 305	18 x 12 x 12	20	20	240
287942	457 x 305 x 305	18 x 12 x 12	20	20	240
002077	457 x 317 x 381	18 x 12 1/2 x 15	20	20	240
000578	457 x 457 x 305	18 x 18 x 12	20	20	120
000161*	457 x 457 x 457/382/307/232	18 x 18 x 18/15/12/9	25	20	120
000779	457 x 457 x 508	18 x 18 x 20	20	20	120
000579	457 x 457 x 610	18 x 18 x 24	20	10	120
000541	457 x 457 x 762	18 x 18 x 30	20	10	120
001272	508 x 508 x 508	20 x 20 x 20	25	10	120
001271	533 x 330 x 355	21 x 13 x 14	25	20	240
001270	566 x 366 x 254	22 1/4 x 14 3/8 x 10	25	20	240
002284	581 x 406 x 312	22 7/8 x 16 x 12 1/4	20	20	240
002085	610 x 254 x 330	24 x 10 x 13	25	20	240
001269	610 x 457 x 229	24 x 18 x 9	25	20	240
000160*	610 x 457 x 457/382/307/232	24 x 18 x 18/15/12/9	20	10	120
002119	610 x 508 x 406	24 x 20 x 16	20	10	120
000159	610 x 610 x 610	24 x 24 x 24	30	10	120
002917	711 x 558 x 430	28 x 22 x 16 15/16	25	10	120
000777	762 x 457 x 457	30 x 18 x 18	30	10	120
004303	762 x 610 x 508	30 x 24 x 20	20	10	120
002122	762 x 762 x 914	30 x 30 x 36	20	1	120
000776	914 x 610 x 254	36 x 24 x 10	30	5	120

Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category PAF



75% minimum recycled content

* Multi-depth case

Euro Pallet Boxes

These modular double wall cardboard boxes have been designed for stacking strength and will fit exactly to a Euro pallet. They're tough and durable and can hold up to 30kg. Our euro pallet boxes also contain up to 75% recycled content.



Reference	Boxes Per Layer
Euro 3	3 boxes per layer on a 800 x 1200 mm pallet
Euro 4/2/1	4 boxes per layer on a 800 x 1200 mm pallet 2 boxes per layer on a 600 x 800 mm pallet 1 box per layer on a 400 x 600 mm pallet
Euro 6	6 boxes per layer on a 800 x 1200 mm pallet
Euro 8/4/2	8 boxes per layer on a 800 x 1200 mm pallet 4 boxes per layer on a 600 x 800 mm pallet 2 boxes per layer on a 400 x 600 mm pallet
Euro 10	10 boxes per layer on a 800 x 1200 mm pallet
Euro 12/6	12 boxes per layer on a 800 x 1200 mm pallet 6 boxes per layer on a 600 x 800mm pallet

Product Code	Reference	Size L x W x H (mm)	Approx. Load (kg)	Pack Qty
004479	Euro 3	786 x 386 x 472	30	10
004480	Euro 4/2/1	586 x 386 x 305	30	20
004481	Euro 6	386 x 386 x 305	30	20
004482	Euro 8/4/2	386 x 286 x 305	30	20
004484	Euro 12/6	286 x 252 x 305	30	20
004483	Euro 10	386 x 226 x 305	30	20

Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



75% minimum recycled content

Palletised Containers

The complete solution for shipping or storing heavy items. Each of our palletised containers includes a cap, tray and sleeve and are supplied with a heat-treated timber pallet. Suitable for export, when used with a pallet, these boxes can hold goods up to 200kg. These pallet boxes also contain a minimum of 50% recycled content.



Product Code	Description	Size (mm) L x W x H	Approx. Load (kg)
001528	1/1 Container	1070 x 870 x 900 ID	200
		1100 x 900 x 1020 OD	
001529	1/1 Europa	1170 x 770 x 660 ID	200
		1200 x 800 x 780 OD	
001530	1/2 Container	1070 x 870 x 550 ID	200
		1100 x 900 x 670 OD	
001531	1/2 Europa	770 x 570 x 660 ID	200
		800 x 600 x 780 OD	

Environmental impact rating See page 13

Boxes



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



50% minimum recycled content

Pallet



don't recycle



recyclability category
FOR



50% minimum recycled content

BDCM Boxes

A range of standard printed cardboard boxes, traditionally used in clothing, retail and catalogue trades. BDCM stands for "Bulk Distribution Carton Metric". These cardboard cartons meet industry standards and are designed to maximise the efficiency and space of delivery vehicles, warehouse space and packing stations. Our range of BDCM boxes come in three sizes and can hold up to 10kg.

Product Code	Reference	Size (mm) L x W x H	Approx. Load Guide (kg)
005150	BDCM 1	595 x 295 x 388	10
002985	BDCM 2	393 x 293 x 393	10
003193	BDCM 3	595 x 295 x 188	10



Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



50% minimum recycled content

Unlined Postal Boxes

Our single wall postal boxes provide a secure transit solution for a variety of items. They include special tuck-in locking flaps for easy closure and sealing. These unlined postal boxes can hold up to 5kg and contain up to 100% recycled content.

Product Code	Colour	Size (mm) L x W x H	Pack Qty
004523	White	130 x 115 x 90	100
004524	White	145 x 130 x 52	100
004525	White	152 x 57 x 57	100
004526	White	201 x 126 x 55	100
004527	White	246 x 216 x 55	100
004528	White	275 x 180 x 80	100
004529	White	300 x 240 x 100	50
004530	White	360 x 280 x 80	50
004531	White	426 x 261 x 55	50



Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



100% recycled content

Standard Postal Boxes

Our range of standard postal boxes all comply with Royal Mail Small Parcel guidelines. Available in a range of sizes, these postal boxes can contain goods up to 5kg.

Product Code	Colour	Size (mm) L x W x H	Pack Qty
256396	PB1	100 x 95 x 105	1
256398	PB2	125 x 115 x 115	1
256409	PB3	200 x 150 x 100	50
256402	PB4	202 x 96 x 78	50
256404	PB5	252 x 136 x 88	50
256410	PB6	255 x 165 x 45	50
256411	PB7	285 x 195 x 125	50
256407	PB8	320 x 200 x 130	50



Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



75% minimum recycled content

Foam Lined Postal Boxes

Also known as oyster packs our foam lined postal boxes are a great solution for shipping high value or fragile items. Designed with tuck-in flaps for easy sealing and closure.

Product Code	Reference	Size (mm) L x W x H	Pack Qty
000583	No.1	180 x 120 x 50	100
000584	No.2	275 x 180 x 50	50
000670	No.2A	275 x 180 x 80	50
000585	No.3	360 x 280 x 50	25
000671	No.3A	360 x 280 x 80	25
000672	No.4	525 x 385 x 80	25



Available with anti-static foam

Environmental impact rating See page 13

Boxes



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



100% recycled content

Foam



don't recycle



recyclability category
OTHER



0% recycled content

Standard eCommerce Boxes

Our range of eCommerce boxes are available in a variety of sizes and include a peel and stick closure – so you don't need packing tape! Perfect if you want to speed up your pack times. They're also easy to open, as they feature a tear strip.

Product Code	Size (mm) L x W x H	Pack Qty	Pallet Qty
271161	225 x 225 x 60	50	2,600
271158	370 x 230 x 100	50	1,300
271162	460 x 370 x 85	50	650



Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



minimum recycled content

eCommerce Crash-Lock Boxes

Super quick to assemble, our crash-lock boxes are a great option when time is of the essence. Suitable for a wide variety of items, including homeware, beauty products and gifts.

Product Code	Size (mm) L x W x H	Pack Qty	Pallet Qty
271147	182 x 111 x 60	20	4,000
271149	250 x 130 x 80	20	2,640
271157	300 x 180 x 110	20	1,320



Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



minimum recycled content

eCommerce Transit Boxes

Our range of eCommerce transit boxes feature a crash-lock base for easy assembly, as well as a special folding closure for added security.

Product Code	Size (mm) L x W x H	Pack Qty	Pallet Qty
271166	305 x 229 x 229	20	720
271163	432 x 318 x 318	20	360



Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category
PAP



minimum recycled content

Custom Cardboard Boxes

Custom cardboard box design is a great way to optimise your packaging operation and enhance your customer experience.

At Macfarlane Packaging, our team can help you with branded boxes as well as technical specifications and design.

An intelligently designed box can play a major role in reducing damages, increasing productivity, reducing your packaging waste, and controlling transport costs.

Whether you're looking for a standard printed cardboard box, need a more complex, specialist pack, want shelf-ready or gift packaging with expert finishing and embellishments, Macfarlane can provide it all.

Custom pack design is the single most effective way to:

- Reduce damages and returns
- Reduce transport costs
- Improve productivity
- Improve customer experience



Box Automation

We can offer a full range of packaging automation solutions to help take your business to the next level, including box automation. Our services cover reviewing your operation, as well as recommending, testing and supplying packaging machinery for your business...

Imagine the time and effort that goes into assembling, packing, sealing, and dispatching your parcels. Automating your boxing can dramatically improve productivity, help you control material use, reduce damages, and allow you to future-proof for spikes in demand.

Carefully planned packaging automation will make your business more resilient and flexible year-round.

Six signs you could be ready for packaging automation

If you're wondering if now is the time to introduce packaging automation into your business, look out for these signs:

1. Your packaging is increasingly taking up room in your warehouse
2. You continually need to hire new staff for your production and/or packing line
3. Your packs produced per hour aren't increasing in line with demand
4. Your business is creating increasing levels of packaging waste
5. You experience an uplift in customer complaints about damaged goods (if demand is too high, packing quality could be less reliable)
6. Your team morale in packing areas may be lower due to increased workload

Noticing just one or more of these signs in your packing operation could be an indicator that it's a good time to look at automated packaging machinery.



How automation can optimise your packing operation

- **Reduce packing times by up to 50%**
Auto-boxing, packing, lidding, sealing and labelling can all be done automatically so all your packer has to do is put the goods into a tray
- **Dramatically reduce your packing area**
Automated packing equipment can halve the footprint of your existing packing area
- **Save on transport costs**
Goods are packed more efficiently, using the right size box for your product every time. This increases pallet yield and payload whilst reducing your carbon footprint
- **Reduce damages and returns**
Efficiently packed goods are well protected and product damage is significantly reduced
- **Improve customer experience**
Easy to open, well packed boxes that protect the goods, keep customers happy and reflect well on your business
- **Save on storage space and materials**
Box types and sizes are consolidated. Along with just in time delivery, this frees up storage space for other uses
- **Reduce material costs and improve productivity**
Automation uses materials more efficiently and completes tasks more quickly
- **Speed up throughput**
Automation can dramatically increase throughput while maintaining superior quality standards

Recycling & Packaging

Packaging has an important role to play in protecting product, but it needs to be designed, used, and disposed of properly to minimise its impact of the environment.

When packaging materials come to the end of their initial use, recycling or reusing them helps reduce their environmental impact. How easily packaging can be disposed of can also influence a positive unboxing experience for the end consumer.

With this in mind, we want to help businesses make an informed choice about their packaging. That's why all products in this guide are clearly labelled with information about the type of material it is, if the material can be recycled and whether the product contains any recycled content. We're also a member of the On-Pack Recycling Label Scheme.



Below you'll find a key that explains all the symbols you'll see using this guide.

The Macfarlane Packaging Environmental Impact Rating

The Environmental Impact Rating bar accompanies every product entry in this book. It is part of our commitment to helping you make informed choices about packaging and the environment. The guide on this page gives you a more detailed explanation of the symbols' meaning and origin.

OPRL recycling logos

Macfarlane Packaging is a member of the OPRL (On-Pack Recycling Label) scheme. The scheme is UK wide and tells you how easily a labelled pack can be recycled in the UK.



Recycle

Applied to packaging collected by 75% or more of UK local authorities and then sorted, processed and recycled into new packaging or products.



Recycle with bags at large supermarkets | Don't recycle at home

Applied on plastic wrapping such as bread bags, fruit and veg bags, crisp packets and chocolate wrappers. You can recycle this type of packaging at recycling points in selected supermarkets.



Don't recycle

Applied to packaging collected by less than 50% of UK local authorities and/or is not able to be sorted, processed and recycled into new packaging or products.

Recyclability category

International recycling code for materials



Widely recycled - PET (Polythene Terephthalate)



Recyclable - HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)



Non recyclable - PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)



Recyclable - LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene)



Recyclable - PP (Polystyrene)



Non recyclable - PS (Polystyrene)



Non recyclable



Recyclable - PAP (Cardboard)



Recyclable - PAP (Paperboard)



Recyclable - PAP (Paper)



Recyclable - FE (Steel)



Recyclable - FOR (Wood waste)

Recycled content

Percentage of content that has come from recycled (not virgin) content.

Tolerance +/- 5%

Environmental impact rating See page 13



recycle



recyclability category PAP



minimum recycled content

Frequently Asked Questions

How are cardboard boxes made?

Cardboard boxes are made from corrugated cardboard (see page 3 to learn more).

When a box is made, sheets of corrugated cardboard are fed into a machine that cuts the board into the shape required. The amount of cutting depends on the size and style of the box (see pages 4 and 5).

Boxes are primarily made in either a case maker - one machine that prints, slots & creases, glues and folds the board into its final shape (e.g. an O201 box) - or a die cutter.

A die cutter can use either a flat bed or a rotary die to stamp out the shape of the box required. Die cut boxes are often then passed through finishing machines which can complete processes such as stitching, gluing and taping joins, assembly, multi-point gluing and applying peel and stick features.

Finished boxes are then usually flat packed on pallets for easy transport and storage.

Which type of cardboard box do I need?

The type of cardboard box you need will depend on several factors, including the size, weight and fragility of your products.

For example, if you're posting lightweight cosmetics, small ecommerce or postal boxes could be a great option. In contrast if you're shipping a bulky or heavy industrial product, or exporting a product, a palletised container might be for you.

Our team of experts can guide you and help you choose the right box (or boxes). [Email us to arrange a call back from one of our team.](#)

How do I know what size cardboard box I need?

The size of the cardboard box (or boxes) you need will depend on the product(s) you're shipping. You need to take into account the size, shape, weight, and fragility of your product(s), as these will all influence what size and type of cardboard box you need.

For example, if you ship a range of different size products or pack multiple products, you may want to buy a range of different size cardboard boxes that will accommodate all your goods.

See page 3 for our guide to measuring cardboard boxes.

Do I have to buy "off the shelf" cardboard boxes from Macfarlane Packaging or can I have a box made to size?

At Macfarlane Packaging, we can help you with any sort of custom protective packaging - including cardboard boxes.

If you need a specific size box, technical design or want to print your boxes, speak to our team today.



Scan to view more about custom packaging

Can I print a cardboard box with my branding or design?

Yes, you can choose to print your cardboard boxes with your branding and design. Minimum order quantities will apply. You may also have to pay for stereo charges (as well as the cost per box), depending on how you choose for your box to be printed (e.g., digitally or via lithographic print).

Custom printed cardboard boxes are a great way to enhance your unboxing experience and create a great impression.

What is the minimum order quantity for cardboard boxes?

The minimum order quantity (MOQ) for all Macfarlane Packaging's "off the shelf" range of cardboard boxes is usually one pack. A pack will contain a set number of boxes, e.g., 25 units.

Within this guide, we have listed the quantities each of the products from our stock box range are available in.

If you choose to order a custom cardboard carton, the MOQ will depend on the size and print of the box you're opting for. Our team will be able to advise you and provide you with a quote that states the MOQ, so you can make an informed decision.

Are cardboard boxes environmentally friendly?

Yes, cardboard boxes are a good choice if you want an eco-friendly packaging option. Corrugated cardboard is made from a renewable material that can be recycled.

At Macfarlane Packaging, we believe packaging has an important role to play in product protection but must be designed and used properly to minimise its impact on the environment. That's why we ensure that many of our packaging products contain high recycled content and are recyclable.

For example, Macfarlane Packaging's stock boxes contain recycled content and can be recycled. Our single wall cardboard boxes contain a minimum of 50% recycled content, and our double wall cardboard boxes contain up to 75% recycled material.

Can cardboard boxes be recycled?

Yes, boxes can be recycled. Since they are easy to recycle, boxes are a great eco-friendly packaging option.

How and where you can recycle cardboard boxes will depend on your local authority, although the majority of authorities will collect cardboard boxes at kerbside in the UK.

It's important to remember to remove any plastic packing tape or document wallets from boxes before putting them into the waste stream.





For more information about our full range of boxes, and for help with everything from purchasing to delivery, visit our website or give us a call.

macfarlanepackaging.com

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Éire 0818 3000 68



macfarlanepackaging.com