Reusable transport packaging

a prime example of a circular model

rpe
reusable packaging europe

Reusable Transport Packaging (RTP) is **the best way to reduce the environmental impact of packaging** across the logistical supply chain. RTP is intended for and based on the principles of prevention and reuse, rather than recycling, and is a great example of the circular economy in action.

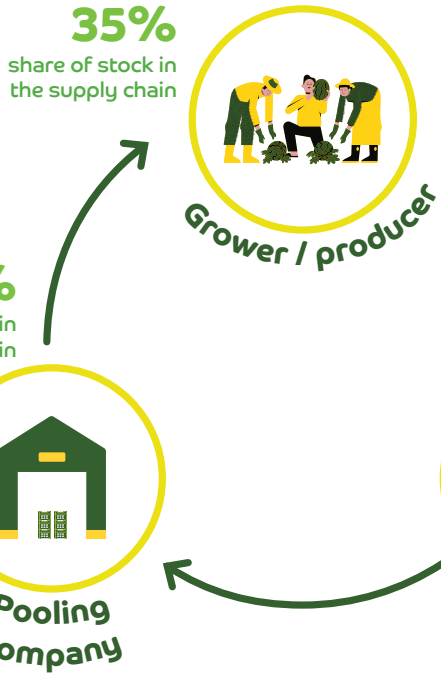
By using and discarding less raw materials, ensuring a longer lifespan and providing safe and efficient transport, RTP is an essential enabler of obtaining the EU's circular economy objectives[1].

Optimal design and resource efficient production

RTP is designed in such a way that it can be produced as resource friendly as possible while still resulting in a long-lasting user-friendly product.

Two of many examples of Reusable Transport Packaging

	Reusable Packaging Containers (RPCs)	Reusable Wooden Pallets (RWPs)
Design	**96%** less product damage **35K** tons of food saved annually **66** million euros saved[2]	RWPs are designed for standardized safe stacking, handling and loading, **saving cargo space** and creating **safer work environments**[3].
Use	RPCs are predominantly used for the transport of fresh (food) products.	Wooden pallets are predominantly used for the transportation of Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG).
Production	Since RPCs come into contact with food, certified **food safe plastic** is needed for production. As much **recycled (food safe) plastic** as available is used in producing RPCs.	Made from PEFC certified **sustainable wood** and are **fully recyclable**.
Life span	**7 to 12 years** of usage **up to 120 cycles** of reuse **60% CO_2 reduction** compared to single use cardboard packaging[4]	**up to 30 times** used per year in an 8-year cycle **40 - 50% CO_2** **55 - 70% timber** **70 - 80% landfill** reduction in comparison with non-pooled alternatives[5]



A circular reuse system

The use of a pooling system with RTP is much more efficient than single-use transport packaging, and lowers the final costs for its users. Overall, RTP results in a **40 to 60% CO2 reduction** in comparison with single-use packaging and a significant waste reduction.

The use of reusable packaging as a circular service is essential for reaching a climate-neutral economy. Reusable packaging is **the most efficient and sustainable solution** for transport packaging, such as RPCs and RWPs.

Beyond repair?

Reusable Packaging Containers (RPCs)

Safe for food handling:
recycled into new RPCs

Not safe for food handling:
recycled into raw material for added value application (such as furniture)

Reusable Wooden Pallets (RWPs)

Recycled into **biomass pellets** for heating systems, pet bedding and other materials

References

1 P. M. Coelho, B. Corona, R. ten Klooster, and E. Worrell, "Sustainability of reusable packaging–Current situation and trends," Resour. Conserv. Recycl. X, vol. 6, no. March, p. 100037, 2020.

2 Zero Waste Europe, Reusable vs single-use packaging a review of environmental impact, 2020; Stiftung Initiative Mehrweg and Fraunhofer Institute, Carbon Footprint Study, 2018. ; IFCO SYSTEMS, Sustainability; Euro Pool System, Sustainability. https://www.ifco.com/about-ifco/sustainability/ ; Euro Pool System, Towards a Circular Supply Chain – together, https://www.europoolsystem.com/sustainability

3 Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging & Packback, Standardisation in reusable food packaging, 2020.

4 Zero Waste Europe, Reusable vs single-use packaging a review of environmental impact, 2020; Stiftung Initiative Mehrweg and Fraunhofer Institute, Carbon Footprint Study, 2018. ; IFCO SYSTEMS, Environmental impact of RPCs, https://www.ifco.com/about-ifco/sustainability/

5 ISO1044-compliant Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) for CHEP pallets versus non pooled alternatives. http://www.powerofpooling.com ; La Palette Rouge, Life of a Pallet analysis - aka LPR's secret weapon, https://www.lpr.eu/blog/life-of-pallets-analysis#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20lifespan%20of,order%20to%20maximise%20this%20lifespan.