

Moulded pulp tray, twelve cavity

WET-PRESS · NESTABLE · FLANGED RIM

CP-PLP-T12 320 × 240 × 42 mm

The tray arrives moulded. There is nothing to fold, nothing to assemble and no consumable, so this sheet covers destacking, loading and closing rather than construction. The one thing worth learning properly is the flange — it is what the nest sits on, what the lid sits on, and the first thing to check on any tray that will not behave.

READ FIRST

- ! Handle the tray by the flange, flat-handed. It is the widest part of the rim and the easiest to hold, and it is also the part that everything downstream depends on being flat.
- ! Take trays from the top of a column, never from the middle. Pulling one out of the middle drops the trays above it onto their flanges, and a bruised flange never nests or closes properly again.
- ! Lift straight up, not at an angle. Tilting the top tray jams it back onto the one below.
- ! One item to a cavity. A second item sits proud of the rim, and on this tray that means the lid will not go down.
- ! Do not force a lid. A lid that needs pressing is a lid sitting on the goods, not on the flange — take it off and look at the load before anything is taped.
- ! Keep trays dry. Wet pulp has no strength at all, and a tray that has been damp does not recover when it dries.

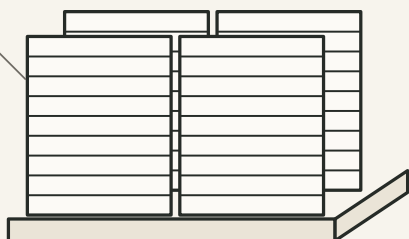
ON THE PALLET

Trays per pallet layer	240, nested
Layers per pallet	8
Tools required	None
Required consumable	None — a second tray closes the pack
Loading time, after practice	13 seconds

AT THE PALLET, STEPS 1 TO 4

1 Take a column from the pallet

columns land square on the deck

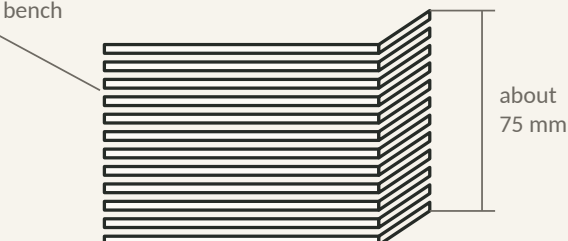


nothing overhangs · an overhanging layer is the one that gets caught

Trays arrive nested in columns, wrapped single height, laid out so that nothing overhangs the deck. Take a whole column from the top rather than pulling trays out of one in place: a column worked from the middle drops the trays above it onto their flanges, and a bruised flange is the one fault on this tray that shows up twice.

2 Stand a short column on the bench

ten to fifteen on the bench

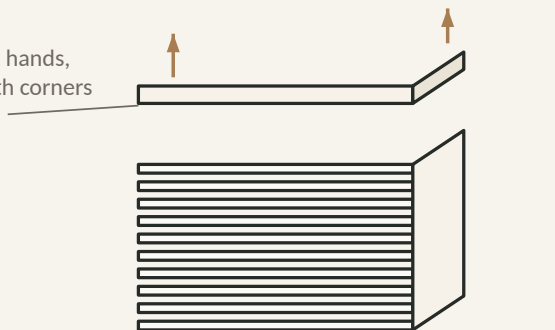


a short column · the bottom of a tall one carries the rest

Ten to fifteen trays is the working length — enough to be worth setting down, few enough that the bottom of the column is not carrying the rest. Nested, that column is about seventy-five millimetres tall, because the nest pitch is five.

3 Lift the top tray straight up

flat hands, both corners

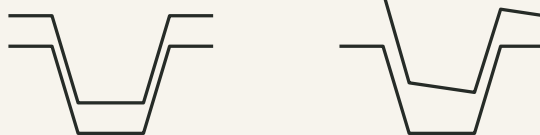


the flange is what you hold · and what everything else depends on

Flat hands on opposite flange corners, and go vertically. The flange is wide enough to take a whole hand, which is why it is the place to hold a tray rather than a cavity edge. Tilting the top tray is what jams it back on, because a drafted wall grips as soon as it stops being parallel.

4 Look at the flange before anything else

one knocked rim tilts the whole tray



flat flange, seats

bruised corner, holds off

it will not nest again, and it will not take a lid

One knocked corner of rim lifts the whole tray out of the nest and holds a lid off it at the same time, and neither fault is visible until the tray is in a stack or under a lid. Run a hand flat across the rim as the tray comes off the column. A flange out of flat does not come back, and the tray is scrap.

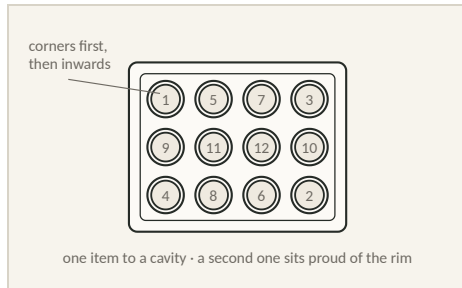
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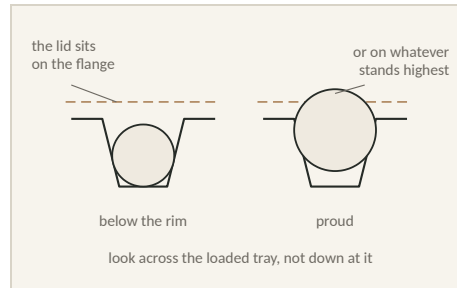
LOADING, STEPS 5 TO 6

5 Load one item to a cavity



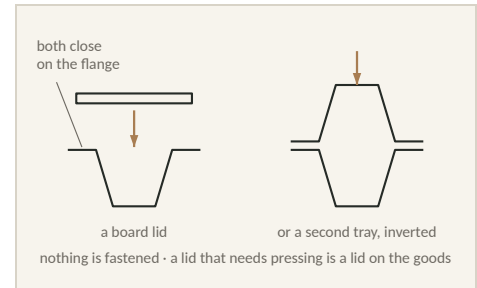
Fill the corners first and work inwards, finishing with the middle row. A tray this size loaded from one end leans well before it is half full, and the last items then go in at an angle. One item to a cavity, always — a second one has nowhere to sit but on top of the first.

6 Check nothing stands proud of the rim



On the six this matters because the next tray lands on whatever is highest. Here it matters sooner: the lid does. Look across the loaded tray at eye level rather than down at it, because from above an item sitting twenty millimetres proud looks exactly like one sitting flush.

7 Close it — lid, or a second tray



A board lid drops into the rim and sits on the flange. So does a second tray turned upside down, which closes the pack with nothing else bought and holds the goods between two sets of cavities instead of one. Neither is fastened. If a lid needs pressing to go down, it is sitting on something in a cavity and not on the rim.

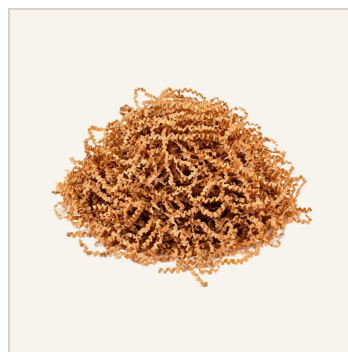
IF A TRAY WILL NOT DESTACK, OR A LID WILL NOT SIT

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	FIX
Two trays lift together	The column has been compressed in transit, or the top tray was lifted at an angle	Set both down, lift the top one straight up by opposite flange corners. If it happens down the whole column, the pallet was over-wrapped
The lid sits high on one side	A bruised or bowed flange, usually from a tray taken out of the middle of a column	Scrap the tray. A flange out of flat is out of flat permanently, and it will jam every nest it goes into after this one
The lid sits high all round	Something in a cavity is standing proud of the rim	Take the lid off and look across the tray at eye level. One item to a cavity; if a single item still stands proud it is the wrong tool
The top tray will not lift at all	Trays stored damp and the wall has taken up moisture	Take the column out of service. A damp tray has no cavity load and cannot be dried back at the bench
An inverted top tray rocks	The two trays are not square to each other, or one flange is bruised	Set the top one down square rather than sliding it into place. If it still rocks, one of the two flanges is damaged — find which and scrap it
Flanges are cracking on the pallet	The pallet has been stacked two high, or the outer carton is carrying nothing	The carton takes the load, not the trays. Restack single height and check the outer spec

WHAT GOES IN WITH IT



CP-CTN-RSC1
Shipping carton, RSC
The outer that carries the load a column of closed packs does not.



CP-VF-CR18
Crinkle void fill
For the headspace above the top pack, where a column stops short of the carton.



CP-TP-G70
Water-activated paper tape
Closing the outer, and banding a lidded pair if the pack is going out on its own.

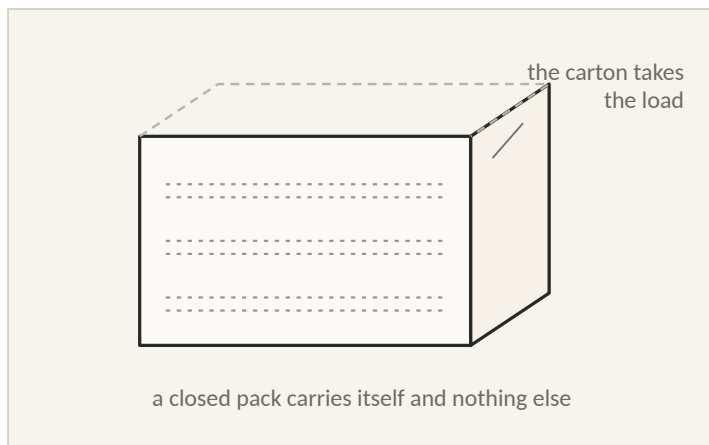
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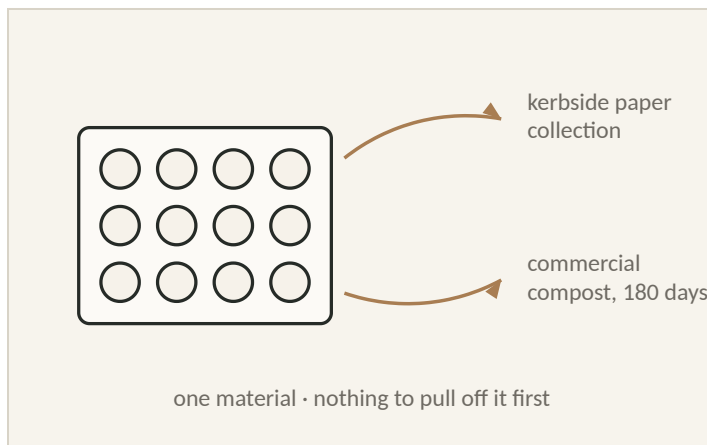
CLOSING, STACKING AND THE RETURN LEG

8 Stack the closed packs in the outer



Closed packs stack rim on rim inside the shipping carton. The stack supports its own weight and no more — everything above it on the pallet is carried by the carton walls, which is why the outer is specified for the load and the tray is not.

9 Two ways out, and nothing to separate



The tray is recycled newsprint and water with nothing added, so it goes into kerbside paper collection exactly as it is. Where the pack has closed tray on tray, the whole thing goes that way together — there is no lid to pull off first. Where it has been in contact with food, commercial composting takes it down inside a hundred and eighty days.

STORAGE

Before make-up

- Store pallets single height, wrapped, off the floor.
- Do not double-stack. The trays crush long before the pallet does, and the damage is at the bottom where nobody looks.
- Keep dry. Wet pulp loses its strength completely and does not get it back on drying.
- There is no shelf life on a dry nested tray. The limit is handling damage, and on this tray handling damage means the flange.

END OF LIFE

After the last trip

- The whole tray goes into kerbside paper collection as it is.
- A pack closed tray on tray goes the same way as one thing. There is nothing to pull off it first, which is the difference from a lidded plastic insert.
- It also breaks down in commercial composting inside 180 days, which is the route to take if it has been in contact with food.
- Return trays nested if they are going into a returns pool. A nested column ships for a twentieth of what a loose one does.

Almost every fault on this tray is a flange fault, and almost every flange fault happens before the tray reaches the bench — a column pulled from the middle, a pallet wrapped too hard, a layer set down on a corner. If lids are sitting high at the line, look at how the trays are being taken off the pallet before looking at the lids.

PALLET HANDLING

Stack height, palletised	1 pallet – do not double-stack
Storage position	Nested, upright, wrapped, off the floor
Opened layer	Rewrap, or run out within the shift
Bruised flange	Scrap it – it will neither nest nor close, and both faults show late

Check the load limit before despatch. The tray carries one cavity load rating and it is held on the spec sheet. So is the reason a deeper cavity nests at the same pitch. Read both there, not from a bench card; a figure copied onto a card is a figure that goes stale.

BENCH SETUP

Working a column

- Stand a short column on the bench rather than working from the pallet. Ten to fifteen trays is about right: enough to be worth setting down, few enough that the bottom of the column is not carrying a load.
- Lift by opposite flange corners with both hands and go straight up. The flange is wide enough to take a flat hand, which is the point of holding it there rather than at a cavity.
- Load opposite cavities first, then work inwards. A tray filled from one end leans before it is half full and the last item goes in at an angle.
- If the pack closes tray on tray, keep the second tray somewhere it cannot be knocked. It is doing the job of a lid and it needs its flange as much as the loaded one does.

MAKE-UP TIME, AFTER PRACTICE

CP-PLP-T12	13 seconds
CP-PLP-T12, closed tray on tray	17 seconds – the close is four of them
CP-PLP-T06	8 seconds