

# White magic



# EPS is the ultimate material for all your packaging needs. It is:

## ● Durable

Exceptional durability protects products from the factory to the home. It remains unaffected by damp, moisture or heat and its soft surface protects against damage and dirt.



## ● Lightweight

EPS is 98% air — it is one of the lightest packaging materials in existence.



## ● Protective

The outstanding shock absorbency and compression resistance provides excellent protection.



## ● Versatile

Packaging is customised to fit the smallest component or the largest fridge-freezer. The latest computer design techniques ensure that packaging is kept to a minimum yet is 100 per cent fit-for-purpose.



## ● Insulating

The thermal insulating properties of EPS keep food fresh and prevent condensation — guaranteeing that fish, fruit and vegetables can all be safely distributed to retain their freshness and their shape.



# Don't just take our word for it!

## See what our customers have to say.

**Andrew Jackson is the Processing and Logistics Director of Marine Harvest, the largest producer of farmed Atlantic salmon in Scotland.**

"EPS offers the best insulation, it is lightweight (which is important for us) and strong which allows us to pack the boxes on pallets eight boxes high. Packaging the salmon in expanded polystyrene means we know it will arrive with our customers in excellent condition."

**Graham Bonner is Purchasing Director of Stoves plc, the UK's leading independent cooker manufacturer, based in Prescot on Merseyside.**

"Expanded Polystyrene comes out top in all aspects including price, appearance, the environment and the protection it gives our products.

"Our cookers are large and heavy and go through many hands in the distribution chain, EPS makes sure that no matter what happens en route they arrive in our customers' kitchens in perfect condition."

**Peter Redstone is Managing Director of Rocombe Farm, producers of delicious Organic Ice-cream for Sainsburys supermarkets.**

"We chose EPS to package our latest product line for two key reasons. One is its unique insulation properties — it keeps the ice-cream in our new four x 100ml packs cold enough to be safely transferred to the freezer when the customer gets home — and secondly because it is a 100 per cent recyclable material.

"The environmental performance of the material was crucial to our decision to use it. Once we had established that EPS is being extensively recycled by manufacturers and retailers we were happy to use it to package our organic products."

**Peter Gormley, UK Supply Manager for SmithKline Beecham.**

"We send out around 40,000 packs of travel vaccines a year to GPs all over the UK and N. Ireland. Every single one is packaged in EPS. It is the ideal material for our purposes, it is durable and protective — ensuring the vials or syringes arrive in one piece.

"Even more importantly EPS insulates the vaccines, keeping them at the right temperature (between 2°C and 8°C) for up to 24 hours. GPs can administer the vaccines secure in the knowledge that they are in good condition."

**James Heath, Marketing Director of Unirose, a major supplier of transit packaging to the wine trade.**

"You don't get any breakages when you use expanded polystyrene to package wine bottles for transportation. Some of our customers are sending fine wines around the world, with individual bottles worth hundreds of pounds — they want them to arrive unbroken and EPS is the only way to guarantee that."



# Recycling

The expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging industry is at the forefront of plastics recycling in the UK. The EPS Packaging Group is working hard to further increase recycling levels through a programme of seminars, community projects and practical assistance to waste holders.

The bulk of EPS packaging recycling is undertaken with the co-operation of major manufacturers of electronic goods and with retailers.

● **Comet**, one of the UK's leading electrical retailers, started recycling EPS packaging in July 1997. Packaging waste is collected from all Comet's 260 stores and from over one million customers' homes. The material is then recycled by Metpost in South Wales into imitation wood trellis products which are supplied to B&Q, a sister company of Comet within the Kingfisher Group.

● **Epson Telford** is working in partnership with Timbron International to collect, compact and recycle 20 tons of EPS packaging a month. The packaging is converted into replacement wood mouldings that are supplied to a U.S. DIY chain.

● **Flo-Pak (UK) Ltd** is the leading EPS packaging recycler in the UK. The company works in close partnership with manufacturers and retailers, taking waste EPS packaging and converting it into loose-fill packaging or replacement hardwood. The company installs compactors in manufacturers' warehouses and helps to train staff to ensure the waste packaging material is of the required standard.

● **The Dixons Group** runs an economically efficient recycling scheme that saves them thousands of pounds in landfill charges and makes a good income. All products that are delivered to customers' houses are unpacked and the packaging returned to the warehouse for recycling.



# THE MAGIC OF EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING

Expanded polystyrene boxes are produced through a three-part process called steam moulding.

In stage one tiny spherical EPS beads are expanded to 40 times their original size. This expanding process is precisely timed to determine the size the beads will finally reach. In this way different packaging products can be produced to a required strength by increasing or decreasing the density.

During stage two the beads are stored in huge canvas silos and are left to absorb air for 24-48 hours.

In stage three the freshly expanded beads are poured into individually manufactured moulds. Steam and pressure are applied, softening the beads and compressing them so they bond together into the required shape and density.

In a couple of minutes a perfectly formed white box falls out of the mould, ready to safely package anything from train sets to pharmaceutical phials.



Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) was patented by BASF in 1950.

EPS was first used in the construction industry because of its outstanding insulation properties.

In 1958 EPS began to be used in the packaging sector providing protective packaging solutions for many of the UK's major industry sectors.

These include the fish trade, electronics, white and brown goods and pharmaceutical industries.

The manufacture and use of EPS does not generate any risk to health or the environment.



This brochure has been produced by the Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Packaging Group. The Group is a member group of the British Plastics Federation and its membership consists of 85% of the manufacturers, moulders and recyclers of EPS packaging in the UK.

For more information about EPS packaging and a full list of suppliers and contact details, visit our website:

[www.eps.co.uk](http://www.eps.co.uk)

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