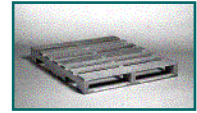


**“Specializing in Skids, Crates, & Pallets. When quality counts, put your products on ours.”**

## The Importance of Pallet Specifications

### A Summary

Pallets are the primary interface between the finished goods and the material handling equipment. The pallet’s integral role is often overlooked or minimized. It should not be.



- Pallets provide a safe, effective shipping and storing platform throughout demanding and diverse situations in the unit load process.
- A proper pallet specification should take into consideration not only the unit load weight requirements, but all of the material handling situations the load will encounter including: free span racking, conveyor travel, forklift handling, and AGV systems.
- Pallet specifications can be designed to accommodate any unique automated equipment performance requirements.
- Pallet specifications involve among other things the product, its configuration and packaging type.
- If you are over-packaging your product to compensate for non-uniform pallets, it is costing you money.

Summing up, an appropriately designed pallet can reduce product damage rates by eliminating or lessening the consequences of impacts, protruding objects and heavy loads. Correct specifications can increase material handling efficiency in all phases of the unit load process.

### Saving Money By Using Your Pallet Providers As The Consultants They Are

Pallet users can have quality pallets at a cost effective rate if they use their pallet provider as a consultant. NWPCA members are supplied with expert unit load information. Together, the pallet provider and the product manufacturer, plant manager, packing engineer or whoever is involved in the movement of the goods, can develop specifications for the specific product being shipped.

### Pallet Users Should Establish Criteria for Pallet Specification

To reduce costs and ensure the protection of the unit load, pallet users should establish criteria for pallet specifications and your pallet provider can help. Here is a list of general guidelines to be considered in the development of specifications for your pallet needs.

### General Description

- Size and description
- Schematic drawing with dimensions and component placement

### Component Dimensions

- Top deck, bottom deck, stringer or block and stringer board
- Nails
- Length x width x thickness; Number of components
- Detailed nail specification ; Number per connection; Quality

### Tolerances

- Pallet size
- Component sizes

### Materials

- Allowable lumber species
- Minimum lumber grades
- Moisture content of lumber

### Performance Requirements

- Load weight requirements
- Maximum pallet deflection
- Pallet Durability
- Equipment capability (rack-able, conveyable, forklift and pallet jack entry)

Destination (domestic or international)

## Types of Pallet Platforms Available

