

## METHODS OF SEALING YOUR CARTON

### Stapling: An effective method of box closure

There are four main ways to close a corrugated box: Taping, stapling, strapping and gluing. In this article, we will focus on the use of staples in corrugated carton closure. What are some of the benefits of stapling over the other methods of box closure, you ask? Well, for starters, stapling is:

#### Cost effective

The more cartons you close; the more you'll save by stapling. Strapping and taping can be up to 50% more expensive in terms of material and labor costs. Furthermore, many packaging designs can be simplified to use less material when staples are used for closing - and less material means lower packaging costs.

#### Strong, stable and secure

Stapling is ideal for packaging heavy items and for long distance shipping. They also hold well in all weather and environmental conditions. A stapled box is always a safe package, whether damp, dusty, hot or cold.

#### Attractive and "pilfer-proof"

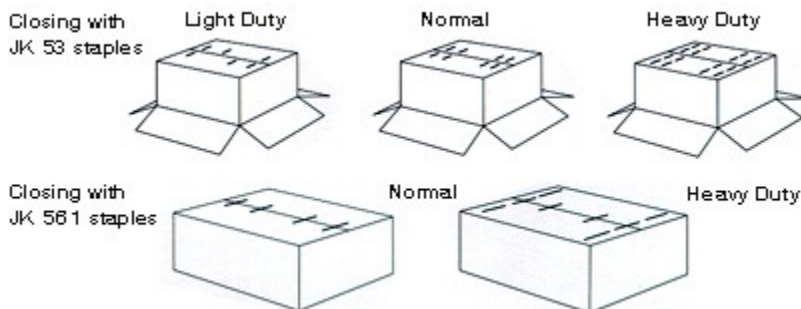
A stapled box leaves a clear, unmarred surface; no part of the box is obscured (especially print) and the box achieves its function as a messenger. And because a stapled box is difficult to re-close, the staples act as a deterrent to the thief. Traces of the crime are obvious; thus a break-in during transport can be detected before the package reaches the customer.

#### Environmentally friendly and efficient

Staples are 100% natural and recyclable. They are also compact, requiring only 1/40 of the space needed by tape.

#### The best way to staple corrugated cartons

The following illustrations show the most efficient method of stapling the tops and bottoms of corrugated boxes. Note that the number of staples required in each case depends on several factors, including board quality and test, contents, staple type etc.



### Packaging Tape: A sticky business

A very common question asked by many of our customers that use packaging tape is "What is the difference between PVC and Polypropylene packaging

tapes?" ...which is usually followed by "Which kind of packaging tape should I be using?"

PVC (polyvinyl chloride) and Polypropylene are the base materials used to make a packaging tape's backing.

Adhesives - Natural rubber, acrylic or Hot Melt - are then applied to the PVC or Polypropylene backing to provide the 'sticking' power.

In general, most people find that PVC packaging tape is superior to Polypropylene in every area except price and recyclables. Don't worry - both tapes work well in most situations. As a general rule, however, you should use PVC for quality and Polypropylene for economy.

To help our customers decide which packaging tape makes the most sense for them, we provide this list of packaging tape 'adhesive' performance criteria and which packaging tapes perform well, better, and best against each criterion.

<b>Adhesive Performance</b>	<b>Natural Rubber</b>	<b>Acrylic</b>	<b>Hot Melt</b>
	<b>PVC backing</b>	<b>Polypropylene backing</b>	
Overall performance	Best	Better	Good
On over-stuffed cartons	Better	Good	Best
On printed/coloured cartons	Best	Better	Good
On rough/recycled cartons	Best	Better	Good
On poly film/wrap	Best	NR	Better
Resistance to dampness	Best	NR	Better
Resistance to yellowing	NR	Best	Better
Overall clarity	Good	Best	Good
In cold temperatures	Best	Better	NR
In hot temperatures	Best	Better	NR
Application temperatures	32-150°F	32-150°F	45-120°F
Service temperatures	-40-170°F	-10-150°F	-10-140°F

NR = not recommended for this application

Both PVC and Polypropylene packaging tapes are printed and are available in various colors. PVC tapes have a smoother, quieter 'unwind'. Polypropylene packaging tape with an acrylic adhesive is more environmentally friendly because the adhesive is water-based.