

MAKE BOXES AS SMALL AS YOU CAN -- FIGHT THE HIDDEN COSTS OF EXCESS PACKAGING MATERIAL:

POSTULATE: Shipping boxes should be made to a precise minimum size to fit the contents being shipped.

Making boxes to an exact size at the shipping department of every company may save our economic system about 5% of the cost of everything -- this is, of course, somewhat of a guess -- but it seems realistic.

CONSIDER THESE COSTS

1. Making the packaging material
2. The costs of the raw material -- mostly oil and wood
3. Transportation and selling cost of the raw material
4. Manufacturing cost of converting the raw material to a finished product -- essentially various chemicals and paper goods
5. Manufacturing the foam sheets, molded foam inserts, foam peanuts and cardboard package inserts from the chemicals and paper
6. Selling costs for packaging material including delivery to stores and storage costs
7. Delivery costs to the user
8. The costs of user storage
9. Labor cost of the user for packaging the material into the shipping box
10. The extra cost of shipping the packaging material along with the contents of the box. Take note United Parcel and fed Express, you sell shipping by **weight** and buy shipping by **volume**, we believe every package made to an exact size will save you 5 to 10% in shipping charges.
11. Removing the packaging material and putting into your trash.
12. The cost of transporting the trash to the dump or recycling center
13. The cost burning, recycling or grinding up the trash

EXACT-SIZE BOXES WILL SAVE US ALL MONEY, BY SAVING FUEL, SPACE AND MATERIAL --- IT IS ALSO GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

1. According to Dennis Young, Technical Director, of the ISTA (The Association for Transport Packaging), " the average density of small parcel freight is 12 pounds per cubic foot".
2. EXACT-SIZE BOXES might increase that density to 20 pounds / cubic feet by eliminating most internal dunnage and packing material (that 20 pounds/ cubic feet is an estimate and might not be accurate).
3. If our country manages to do that and the exact-size system is used widely -- it might mean a 30 to 40% saving in storage and shipping space for every single company in the country.
4. That will save enormously on airplane and truck fuel -- perhaps a 10% fuel saving on every package?
5. And smaller boxes carrying the same weight means a more-than proportional saving in corrugated cardboard. A box that is 1 foot x 1 foot x 1 foot (1 cubic foot) uses about 6 square feet of cardboard. A box 25% smaller in each linear direction --- 9 inches x 9 inches x 9 inches uses about 3.375 square feet of cardboard, which is about a 44% saving in material. **That simply means smaller boxes use material more efficiently.**
6. Reducing a box from 12 x 12 x 12" to 9 x 9 x 9" reduces the volume from 1728 cubic inches to 729 cubic inches. That smaller box represents a 58% saving in volume, and a 44% saving in the size of the cardboard material.

BE A HERO -- MAKE SMALLER BOXES