

Transport packaging

Pooling optimizes the use of pallets



Many manufacturers use the blue CHEP pallets to transport their freight to retailers. CHEP offers a comprehensive pooling system: it purchases the pallets, maintains them, and puts them into circulation among a worldwide network of companies. Thanks to the sophisticated management of this pooling system, CHEP optimizes the use of pallets and avoids the transport of empty pallets.

..... prevent pack

Supply to producers, collect at retailers

CHEP is the world leader in pooling systems for transport packaging, particularly in regards to pallets and containers. The best known example is the striking blue wooden pallet, available in four sizes. (80 x 120, 100 x 120, 80 x 60, and 40 x 60). CHEP supplies the pallets to goods and food products manufacturing sites across the world. These manufacturers use the pallets to carry their goods to Belgian or foreign retailers. When doing so, they inform CHEP exactly where the pallets are being sent. Once the pallets have been unloaded at their destination, CHEP collects them and puts them into circulation again among local manufacturers.



Limited storage, few empty transports

'The system is beneficial for all parties involved,' says Olivier Legendre, Country General Manager at CHEP Benelux. 'The producers always receive quality pallets. In addition, they do not need a large storage space, given the fact that we supply them according to their needs. Likewise, retailers require only limited storage space, because we come to pick up the pallets as soon as possible. Furthermore, the entire cycle is managed

by CHEP, which means that companies do not need to take care of the administration related to the pallets. We also limit the transportation of empty pallets since these don't need to be sent back to the sender. A load of pallets from Spain, for instance, can be easily put back into circulation in any part of Europe.'

good to know

In the CHEP **pooling system**, the pallets are supplied to the manufacturers and collected at their point of destination.

The system is managed entirely by CHEP. Extra attention goes to **minimizing the transport** of empty pallets.

All of the pallets are **inspected, cleaned, maintained, and repaired** when necessary.

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How does CHEP ensure a sustainable use of pallets?

Step 1: manufacturing from certified wood by local carpentry firms

All CHEP pallets are made from wood that is 100% FSC or PEFC certified. This guarantees that the wood comes from sustainable forestry. CHEP does not manufacture the pallets itself but contracts it out to local carpentry businesses across the globe. When completed, the pallets are also put in circulation locally. That way, CHEP avoids the expensive and environmentally costly transport of empty pallets.

Step 2: optimum use of the worldwide network

CHEP has 345,000 customers around the world and almost 300 million pallets in circulation. Its extensive network of manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers is set up for maximum efficiency. CHEP maintains a precise registry of where the pallets are located and can thus carry out optimal collections. In the process, it also takes seasonal fluctuations into account, as well as other variables that influence demand.

Step 3: smart maintenance ensures a long pallet life

CHEP systematically maintains the pallets to ensure their quality and long lifetime. The company has 500 service centres worldwide, where the collected pallets are inspected, cleaned, and repaired when necessary. Damaged parts are replaced and preferably transported to the wood industry where they are processed into chipboards.

Olivier Legendre, Country General Manager
CHEP Benelux

'Pallets coming with a load from Spain are put into circulation again at their final destination, for instance at the other end of Europe. We thus avoid having to transport empty pallets.'

CHEP and the environment

Pooling, or the sharing of equipment, is by definition an **environmentally friendly concept** because the use of equipment is optimized. CHEP, which was founded in Australia under the name Commonwealth Handling Equipment Pool, has been active in the pooling of equipment since 1945. Even after its take-over by the Brambles Group in 1958, equipment pooling has remained its primary mission. In other areas too, CHEP pays considerable attention to the environment:

- All the wood that it uses comes from **sustainable forestry companies** certified by FSC or PEFC.
- CHEP has committed itself to a **20% reduction in its CO₂ emissions** by 2015 compared with 2010.
- In 2010, CHEP received the **Lean & Green Award** during the 'Rij Veilig, Vervoer Groen' Congress in Rosmalen (the Netherlands).
- In collaboration with the University of Leeds (Great Britain), CHEP has developed an **Environmental Calculator** to compute the environmental impact related to the use of CHEP pooling pallets. It reveals that a pooling system emits six times less CO₂ than the use of disposable pallets.

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