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HOW GREEN IS TLE?

Take our packaging, for example. We use die-cut EPS (expanded polystyrene, or ‘Styrofoam’) saddles to cradle our fixtures, so we can ship them lamped and ready to go, without breakage. Yeah, but Styrofoam? Isn’t that bad for the environment? Not really – let’s look.



How do other manufacturers ship their products? They stack 2 x 4 fixtures on top of each other with cardboard in between the layers (if you’re lucky), and run a few turns of shrink-wrap around the pallet. The lamps are shipped separately, in boxes so weak that the 40-pack of lamps often sound like ‘rain sticks’ when you get them – a very high breakage incidence. Even if the stuff material arrives on site undamaged (which is uncommon), *they can only fit a dozen fixtures or so on a pallet*. So, more truck space (and subsequently more trucks) is required, meaning more fuel is consumed in transit. More trees are sacrificed for pallets. Plastic shrink-wrap, which is slower to degrade than EPS, goes into the landfill. There’s more cardboard used, too.

We’re different. We can fit over 100 fixtures on a pallet, so we ship fewer pallets and fewer trucks hit the road, burning far less fuel and emitting far less exhaust into the atmosphere. Since our product arrives with the lamps installed, and gets to the site undamaged, there’s no extra truck fuel involved in returning damaged goods, then shipping new units to the jobsite.

But wait, there’s more: we offer the contractor credit to return undamaged packaging to us so we can reuse it for future orders. All they need to do is cut the strapping, lift off the double-ply cardboard over-box, turn it upside down, and pack it with the (undamaged) EPS saddles as the fixtures are lifted from the packaging. It weighs practically nothing, so return shipping is cheap.

By volume, we have determined that our EPS design actually uses better than 30% less packaging material than the various recycled materials (which are much heavier and don’t give as much protection). We want to be as green as possible, and at the same time have the protection we demand for our products. Happily we have the best of both worlds with our unique EPS packaging.

TLE – doing our part to protect the environment.