

Do's & Dont's of Loading a Pallet

- **Do** load boxes in vertical, or columnar arrangement. This ensures that corners are directly over each other.
- **Do** use 4 sided pallets, preferably with a close boarded or solid load surface and a base where the lower boards come directly to the edge of the pallet.
- **Do** ensure that vertical stiffening of triangles of double wall corrugated board are inserted in the box corners if at all possible.
- **Do** ensure that the box, or boxes, completely fill the pallet. Adjust the box size if necessary to get a clean fill.
- **Do** ensure corners are properly aligned. Even a 1/2 " (1cm) misalignment will result in nearly 30% loss of compressive strength.
- **Do** strap, band, tension wrap, or shrink wrap cartons onto the pallet to ensure stability during handling. If strapping or banding use 4 tension straps plus one girth strap on the upper carton tier.
- **Do not** inter lock boxes, if pallets are to be stacked. Over 50% of the box strength is lost if corners are over the centre of the box below.
- **Do not** use a pallet with wide spacing between the deck boards. Unless a corner is over a deck board, there is a loss of compressive strength similar to that noted above.
- **Do not** use a carton, or stacking pattern, that either overhangs the edge of the pallet, or is short of the pallet edge. Compressive strength is lost, and/or excessive strain is placed on the upper portion of the carton by the pallet loaded on top.
- **Do not** use expanded polystyrene or any plastic foam as a structural member within the carton. This material is only suitable for spacing and internal support of the product being shipped.