

Is the product temperature sensitive?

Some shipments are sensitive to extremes of temperature if incorrectly stored or stowed during transit. For example, vinyl records will be affected by high temperatures and computer diskettes by extremely low temperatures. Again, equipment is available to permit the consignee to check maximum or minimum temperatures to which a shipment has been exposed.

Can the product be crushed?

When packaging assume that the carton will end up at the bottom of a pile of goods, or may be stacked with similar cartons up to 8 feet high. A hand stow in a freight container will utilize the full 9' or 9'6" height if a high cube unit is being used. Road trailers are typically 110" or 9'2" high. Excess package wall strength will also be needed to accommodate loss of strength due to humidity.

Typically, containers should be designed to have 3 to 7 times the stacking strength anticipated during warehousing. For export situations, the allowance may need to be even greater. For example, a product distributed across North America that will be stored up to 9 months before use, and with at least half of the volume stored in the high humidities of the eastern seaboard, would require a stacking strength of 6 or 7.

Extra space in a carton will greatly affect the hazards of stacking. With 1cm of oversize in carton depth, sidewalls could bulge out approximately 5cm.

A piece of custom jewellery: A silver pendant, weight 250 grams, 5cm diameter, scratches very easily. Wrap in a non-abrasive and acid free material. Pack in a bag that is water and vapour proof enclosed with a V.C.I. (volatile corrosion inhibitor) capsule. Bag should be heat sealed. It can be packed individually in a box or packed with cushioning to accommodate the quantity per carton.

