



The Benefits of Pre-Stretched Stretch Film

More economical, more reliable, less user strain...

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Take a rubber band and stretch it out just a little. That large amount of leftover give is about how much resistance traditional stretch film has. Now stretch that same rubber band out just about as far as it can go without snapping – until there's almost no more give - and you'll understand the advantages of pre-stretched film. Little leftover give means less product goes further and there's significantly less strain for users when they apply it.

Pre-stretched film is stretched close to its ultimate break point prior to being wound onto rolls for final use. This means the film doesn't require as much stretching energy as a standard stretch film to achieve the same wrapping force. This is a key reason why pre-stretched films are popular for hand wrap. In fact, with pre-stretched wrap, hand applications can create the same load stability as machine applications. The benefits of this are obvious.

Manufacturers create pre-stretched film by elongating it mechanically between 2 film carriage rollers. Since the surface of the secondary (larger) roller rotates faster than the primary roller, the film gets pulled between them and stretches. The resulting rolls are generally light and easy to handle, reducing operator fatigue. Since there's very little torque involved, users also benefit by being able to use a walk-forward wrapping technique, which can help prevent slip and fall incidents.

In terms of material costs, pre-stretched films are much thinner than traditional stretch films. Ultimately, this produces less environmental waste since the operator uses less material during application.

Major Benefits Include...

There are many benefits to using pre-stretched film. Basically, users get the same (or better) load stability with less product, less physical energy, and greater control.

Price

Pre-stretched film consumption can be less to one half that of traditional stretch film. This creates a cost savings of anywhere from 25% - 40%.

No Edge Damage (no wasted rolls)

Pre-stretched film has rolled edges and has air blown into the roll to support the middle of the roll from telescoping down. These two processes together make it almost impossible to damage the roll edge when dropping it. Traditional stretch film rolls often are thrown away because the user drops them and damages the edge.

Easier to Apply

Lower torque requirements allow users to walk forward instead of backward during application – making for safer and easier control. Also, little or no stretching is required, so it much easier to wrap with less physical strength. The roll is lighter (about 2/3 less than traditional film) and easier to manage. It's about half the thickness and double the strength.

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Film Memory

Since the film is applied to the load with little force, it will naturally tighten after application. This unique film memory and its tendency to tighten after application is the single most important reason for pre-stretching film.

Stretch Consistency

Traditional stretch film does not provide uniform stretch, so its performance is unpredictable; this leads to intermittent load failures. The performance of pre-stretched film is much more controllable.

Other Benefits

- No width reduction during tensioning reduces the number of film wraps required and improves productivity.
- Excellent film cling ensures that film tails will stay in place.
- Good film clarity allows easier inspection of packaged products.
- Superior load retention provides better load stability.
- It stabilizes misshapen and protruding loads.
- It performs well in extreme cold.
- It facilitates compliance with Packaging Waste regulations - using less means less to dispose of.

Most hand-held stretch films need to be stretched at least 100 to 150 percent to make the film stiff enough to effectively hold a shifting load. In reality, operators rarely stretch film more than 50 percent during the wrap process. A nationwide evaluation of hand wrapping in real-life situations, found that the average person stretches hand wrap less than 15%.

There are a number of companies manufacturing pre-stretched stretch film. The industry leaders are Berry Plastics and SIGMA STRETCH FILM.

Berry Plastics

Berry Plastics manufactures a full line of stretch wrap products designed to meet all applications. HW5 is a high performance hand wrap that uses patent-protected blending and layering technology. Delivering both the puncture resistance and load containment of a traditional 80-gauge film, this technology significantly reduces hand stretch consumption as well as overall cost. MP5 is designed for higher-speed equipment, and provides 250% and greater pre-stretch.

SIGMA STRETCH FILM

SIGMA STRETCHED is the company's latest innovation. Its reinforced edges provide excellent load-holding force, tear resistance – and its superior puncture resistance holds corners better on C loads. SIGMA STRETCHED's lightweight rolls and minimal neck down work together to reduce operator fatigue, allow maximum coverage and produce a better yield. The product's superior clarity and aggressive cling is designed to perform well in a variety of environments including sub zero cold storage applications.

Choosing a Distributor

Not all pre-stretched stretch film is the same. You'll want to find a distributor with buying power and packaging expertise who knows the benefits and drawbacks of each type and will take the time to determine your exact needs.

B2B Industrial Packaging LLC

B2B Industrial Packaging is a source for both Berry Plastics and SIGMA STRETCH FILM products. B2B Industrial offers the best packaging products, service, and solutions for businesses ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small growing enterprises. With a base of more than 2,000 active clients, we sell industrial packaging products, such as such as banding carts, strapping carts, steel strapping, polyester banding, polypropylene banding, steel banding seals, and stretch film.. B2B Industrial serves clients primarily in the Central Great Lakes, Northern California, Dallas, and Houston areas and operates a banding tool repair and strapping tool repair facility at its Addison, Illinois headquarters. To contact B2B Industrial Packaging, call 1-800-413-2463 or visit www.B2BInd.com.

Resources

YouTube Video - Sigma Stretch Film - Pre-Stretched Stretch Film Demo
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ggd-m4Qn8Ds&feature=related>