

Which Stretch Wrap Should I Use?

Cast vs Blown

Cast film stretches more in the longitudinal direction (along the roll) than transverse (across the roll). Compared to blown film, it is clearer, feels smoother and less tacky, and is quieter to apply.

Blown film has good bi-directional stretch (along *and* across the roll) making it tougher; ideal for uneven loads, products with sharp edges or very heavy pallets. It feels tacky to the touch and is relatively noisy as it unwinds from the roll.

Thickness

Follow the common-sense rule that heavier loads require thicker stretch wrap! Select thinner film for lightweight, crushable goods and thicker film for heavyweight, breakable goods or for unstable loads. Thicker films offer greater resistance to puncturing and you may need to choose a heavier film if you're wrapping products with sharp edges.

Although we can't produce a definitive list, here are some guidelines for using the various film thicknesses that we stock.

Thickness	Typical Applications
14mu	Lightweight crushable items such as empty food cartons or plastic bottles and foodstuffs such as cereals, crisps and biscuits.
17mu	A good general-purpose specification: cardboard, products in sacks (seeds, dry petfoods), timber products, domestic appliances.
19mu, 20mu	Suitable for most everyday applications including heavier products such as filled bottles and cans, converted paper products and ironmongery; its versatility makes it a popular choice for haulage companies.
23mu, 25mu black	Suitable for all but the heaviest loads: metal and wire goods, electrical products. Choose black film for added confidentiality or for items such as garden compost which will be stored outdoors.
34mu	Ultimate heavy-weight blown film for the most demanding items: bricks, tiles, glass, plasterboard and similarly dense materials. Also useful for lighter products with sharp or rough edges where extra puncture resistance is desirable.

Standard or Extended Cores



It's a matter of personal taste!

As the name implies, extended cores project approximately 100mm at either end of the film, allowing the user to get a good grip on the roll.

Standard (or flush) cores finish flush with the plastic and are designed for use with an applicator (*pictured, left*) to obtain maximum stretch while avoiding 'finger burn'.

Clear, Tinted or Black

Clear stretchwrap enables the contents of the pallet to be identified.

Tinted film provides a quick means of identifying batches of products or segregating pallets, and can also complement corporate livery! Our blue and red tinted film is translucent, rather than opaque, so you can still see what's on the pallet.

Black opaque film, by contrast, hides the contents of the pallet, helping to maintain confidentiality and deter theft. It also offers a degree of protection from UV light.

Tips for Applying Stretch Wrap

- Always apply the clingy side of the wrap to the goods!
- Start by tying the end of the film to the corner of the pallet, then apply at least two full turns covering the base of the pallet and lowest layer of goods.
- Spiral up the pallet overlapping at least 100mm between turns. For greater stability, increase the overlap, allowing up to 50% if necessary. For very heavy or unstable loads, create a 'belt' by applying the wrap horizontally to enhance rigidity.
- If you're using a top sheet, drape it over the goods before you start wrapping and catch it in place as you work up the pallet with the film.
- At the top of the pallet, ensure that the film overlaps the top face of the load and wrap around twice. For maximum stability, spiral back down to the base of the pallet.
- Finish by cutting the film and smoothing down, tucking-in or taping the end securely in place.

Still Unsure? Contact Agritel!

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