

Wood Versus Plastic Pallets

Performance Characteristic Comparison

Characteristic	Wood Pallets	Plastic Pallets
Economic	<p>Moderate initial cost</p> <p>Service Life: 3 to 5 years</p> <p>Trips per pallet: Low to moderate</p>	<p>Moderate initial cost, rapid economic payback</p> <p>Service Life: 250 trips</p> <p>Trips per pallet: High</p>
Performance	<p>Inconsistent construction</p> <p>Frequent breakage requires repair</p> <p>Risks product damage</p> <p>Multi-piece construction not always automation friendly</p>	<p>Consistent dimensional accuracy</p> <p>Strong, durable construction</p> <p>Reliable</p> <p>Smooth, all plastic construction protects product (no nails, rust or splinters)</p> <p>Compatible with conveyors and many automated handling systems</p>
Sanitation	<p>Porous material subject to contamination and pest infestation</p>	<p>Smooth plastic surface is easily cleanable, many pallets offer flow-through design for easy washing</p> <p>Hygienic pallets available</p> <p>Some styles available in FDA approved materials</p>
Safety	<p>Nails, splinters and rust</p> <p>Sharp corners</p> <p>Instability due to breakage</p>	<p>Reduced risk of employee strain and injuries due to splinters, nails and rust</p> <p>Smooth deck and contoured corners for comfortable handling</p> <p>Better stacking ability</p>
Aesthetic	<p>Generic, unattractive design</p>	<p>Aesthetic design suitable for retail environment</p> <p>Customized color and identification</p>
Environmental	<p>Disposal challenges</p> <p>8th largest component in landfills</p>	<p>Easy to recycle</p> <p>Environmentally responsible. When recycled at the end of its service life, the life cycle of the pallet does not end.</p> <p>Reduces packaging waste and disposal costs by eliminating wood pallet disposal</p>

Please note that performance characteristics vary with application.



800-345-3226
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