



Telford Extrusions - Packaging Reduction



Telford Extrusions is part of the Epwin group which is the UK's second largest PVC-U and PVC-UE extruder. The Telford site manufactures 'low maintenance' profiles for the window and door industry.



At the end of the manufacturing process, cooled lengths of extruded profile are cut into 6 metre lengths and packed within stillages ready for transportation. The stillages, made entirely of metal, have eight cross struts which span the length of the stillage. Although the cooled lengths of profile are rigid to the touch a layer of cardboard has to be placed in the base of the stillage to prevent the bottom layer of profile from being marked by the metal cross bars. Traditionally this has been accomplished using four large sheets of cardboard to cover the entire base of the stillage; this equated to a total of 3.92m² of cardboard.

The challenge was to reduce the amount of cardboard per stillage; thereby reducing costs and potentially reducing the amount of cardboard being sent to landfill if/when discarded by customers

Telford Extrusions attended a BESST event which focused on resource efficiency and packaging reduction. Fired with ideas from the event Telford Extrusions, working in partnership with a packaging supplier, were able to develop bespoke strips of "H" shaped cardboard, which were wide enough to cover the width of the metal cross struts and could be secured in place by the utilisation of corresponding upright ribs.



The stillages are now lined with eight of these bespoke strips of cardboard. This means that the total area of cardboard used has been significantly reduced by 65%. This has also resulted in a financial saving to the business of approximately £10,000 per annum. There is also the indirect benefit of potentially 65% less cardboard being sent to landfill. The packaging company, who absorbed the costs of tooling for the project, has been elevated to number one preferred packaging supplier for the entire group, and as such has seen a significant increase in business.

Total financial Saving

£10,000 per annum

www.telfordbesst.co.uk

Business Environment Support Scheme for Telford