

## Repak survey leads to reduced timber waste at Gypsum Industries

Repak conducted a "Prevent and Save" site survey with Gypsum in September 2008. From an initial analysis of Repak returns it became evident that 75% of Gypsum's packaging involved Wood. Therefore, it was clear that any major impact on reducing packaging waste would arise through projects involving timber pallets.

Areas highlighted in the Repak packaging survey included:

**Maximising the quantity of material on incoming and outgoing loads.**

**Re-use of existing incoming pallets in the delivery of finished goods**

**On-site storage of bulky goods.**

From October 2008 through to April 2009 Gypsum implemented a three part project designed to reduce the requirement for timber pallets. This project included the redesign of finished goods pallet layouts, repair to damaged pallets and the re-use of

raw material pallets. The details of the project were inputted into the Gypsum World Class Manufacturing (WCM) tool which confirmed the task as a 'quick win' project.

Already there has been a real benefit to these projects. Calculated upon a pro-rata basis, the resultant savings per annum include:

**110 tonnes per annum of timber waste due to an extra layer per pallet.**

**55 tonnes per annum of timber waste due to repair of damaged pallets.**

**25 tonnes per annum of timber waste due to reuse of incoming pallets.**

**Significant reduction in producer responsibility fees.**

**Offers extra savings from reduced impact to the environment.**

**Transport costs relating to extra product shipped per pallet.**

Some of the issues which needed consideration included:

**Change to SAP information to reflect extra layer.**

**Loading height in plaster mill warehouse.**

**Pallet and fork truck capacity.**

**Risk Assessment.**

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Addition of 1 extra layer per pallet