Reusable Packaging

Description of the Tool

Re-usable packaging is also an area that can help to reduce packaging waste. Again, there are opportunities to re-use primary, secondary and tertiary packaging. However, co-operation is required between the supplier and the customer to ensure that the re-usable packaging is returned, as it is often more expensive than single-trip packaging.

Benefits of the Tool

Reusing packaging with your supplier

- **Reduces the need for you to purchase input packaging**
- **Reduces the amount of packaging waste produced on site**
- **Reduces waste management contractor fees**

Reusing packaging with your customer:

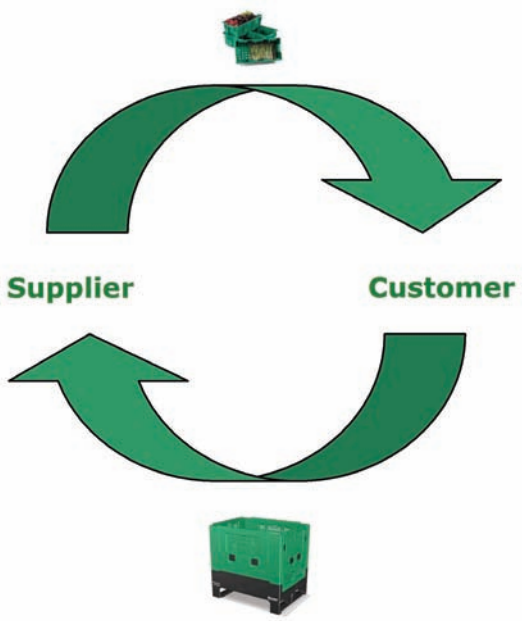
- **Reduces the need for you to purchase output packaging**
- **Reduces the amount of packaging waste placed on the market**
- **Reduces producer responsibility fees**

Possible Challenges

Reuse loops depend on being able to return packaging from customer to supplier in good condition. This requires that your supplier is close enough to ensure that it is economically viable to return packaging to them. Often, reusable packaging is collapsible or stackable so it can be returned in much higher ratios than it was delivered, i.e. one return journey for every 20 deliveries. This format also saves on storage space.

A number of trips must be undertaken to justify reuse packaging as it is often heavier than single trip packaging. Some packaging may require washing or cleaning before reuse, such as glass bottles, plastic totes or plastic pallets.

Further Information

For further information relating to reusable packaging please visit:

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