



PPEC Factsheet

Why do we need packaging?

Think of the products you use every day at home or at the office. How did they get there? Where did they come from? The first form of packaging was probably the earthenware jar used to carry life-giving water to the early cave-dwellers. As primitive societies developed and humans roamed further and further afield, it became necessary to transport food and other items of trade greater and greater distances, and to protect those products from damage and contamination. Jute sacks and animal skins provided a convenient means of packaging.

As people moved off the land into towns and cities in the late nineteenth century, food and other goods now had to be shipped to them, first by horse and stagecoach, then by rail, by specially designed refrigerated trucks, by container ships and airplanes. Packaging has had to adapt to these changes in how humans live, but its fundamental purpose remains the same: to deliver the goods required in a safe and efficient manner.



[Why Packaging Exists](#)

[Packaging Changes](#)