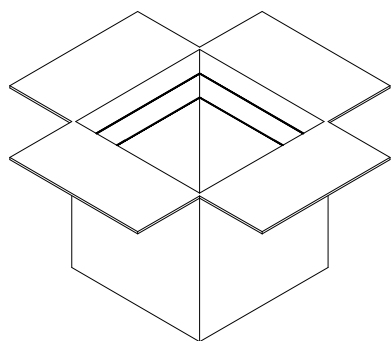


## Using Variable Depth Cartons to Reduce Void Fill Use

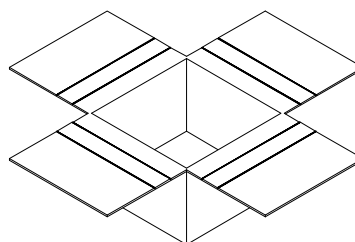
Variable depth cartons can be used to reduce the need for void fill when shipping. Avoiding excess void fill is not only better for the environment, but also for your bottom line. A smaller shipping package reduces both void fill and overall transportation impacts.

The variable depth carton has multiple scores in the depth direction. You simply cut each side down to the desired depth with a standard box cutting knife and fold in the resulting flap. The final carton has clean corners for a professional appearance and more closely conforms to the product in depth.

*Typical Variable Depth Carton*



**Before Cutting:  
Largest Depth Configuration**



**After Cutting:  
Smallest Depth Configuration**

While variable depth cartons reduce void fill and allow more cartons to be packed in a truck, they don't reduce the quantity of corrugated fiber used. As shown in the [DEQ/Franklin study](#), energy used to produce corrugated boxes is often significantly higher than energy used to produce void fills. From the perspective of waste prevention, the best option is to [stock a variety of different sizes of boxes](#). Having the "best sized" box reduces corrugated use and void fill use. Once the inventory of boxes has been optimized, adding a variable depth feature allows for even further reductions in void fill use.

**Alternative formats** (such as large type, Braille) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, at (503) 229-5317

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