



ANG Newspapers

ANG Newspapers (ANG) is one of the largest newspaper companies in the San Francisco Bay area and publishes six papers, including The Oakland Tribune. The publisher employs 500 people in four facilities.

Costs associated with repairing wooden pallets were eating into the company's profits. ANG's solution: [reusable plastic pallets](#). The purchase of 1,700 reusable plastic pallets at a cost of \$75,000 cut labor costs by \$46,000 and prevents 37 tons of wood waste annually.

Reusable plastic pallets also offer many safety and performance advantages to ANG.

- If a wooden pallet is damaged or broken, it may collapse under a heavy load; but the durability of reusable plastic pallets improves worker safety.
- To improve efficiency, ANG color-coded its plastic pallets. The color-coding helps drivers know instantly which loads they are to pick up.
- The standardized shape makes handling and storage easier than with a fleet of mismatched wooden pallets.

Plastic pallets work well at ANG because of its closed distribution system. Backhauling is easy: trucks make deliveries and then pick up and return empties. Tracking the pallets is also easy. Every day, the four production facilities coordinate delivery needs and existing pallet inventory. The packaging plant manager says this work hasn't changed significantly from how it was done with the wooden pallets. The plastic pallets are hot-stamped for identification to help keep them in the system.

"We've enjoyed a good return on the reusable plastic pallets. They've cut costs, improved operations and reduced our wood waste."

Sam Lovato
Property and Telecommunications Manager,
ANG

"Implementation was easy: five hours of employee training, five hours of management time. There is no extra work we have to do with plastic pallets that we didn't do with wood."

Randy McLeod
Packaging Plant Manager, ANG

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