

Set-N-Me-Free

Set-N-Me-Free is an Oregon based business that produces and distributes a line of aloe vera based skin care products. These products include lotions, body wraps, heat creams, and hair care items. Outbound product shipments average 150-200 packages per week. Typical packaging materials include corrugated shipping cartons, bubble wrap, wadded papers, and polystyrene loose fill. Keeping environmental impacts to a minimum is a matter of pride for the employees of Set-N-Me-Free who strive to provide healthy products for their customers and a healthy world for future generations. Set-N-Me-Free has implemented a number of programs to keep overall waste generation to a minimum. Packaging related activities include reuse of incoming packaging materials for outbound shipments, and the use of shredded office paper as a substitute for purchased void fill materials.

Set-N-Me-Free utilizes as much inbound packaging material as possible for reuse in their outbound shipments. Corrugated boxes are reused as outbound shipping cartons or cut into strips, saved in their packaging area, and used as void fill when needed. Only a small percentage of cartons are unclean and cannot be reused, so are recycled instead. All incoming void fills (bubble wrap, polystyrene loose fills, wadded papers) are separated and saved for reuse in outbound shipments.

In order to reuse internally generated office paper, and reduce the amount of new packaging waste generated, Set-N-Me-Free purchased an "Intimus 280" paper shredder for a cost of \$485. Where appropriate the shredded office paper is used as void fill and replaces new bubble wrap and polystyrene loose fill in outbound shipping packages. Space and power requirements are negligible as the shredder utilizes unused office space underneath an existing desk and runs on standard 110 volt power. Customer feedback on using the shredded office paper in place of new cushioning or void fill materials has only been positive. Of the 150-200 outbound packages shipped per week anywhere from 20-50% utilize the shredded office paper. While this does not completely eliminate the use of new packaging void fills it does significantly reduce them. Labor for shredding office paper averages 2-3 hours per week or less than \$50 to Set-N-Me-Free, while the savings from a reduction of the use of new packaging materials is estimated at \$150 per week. Subtracting out the cost to shred office paper the cost savings to Set-N-Me-Free is then \$100 per week or \$5200 per year. At a saving of \$100 per week the shredder paid for itself in only five weeks.

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



Staging Area for Reusable Packaging Materials

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