

MAY 2014

NorthGate Gumwrapper™ Packaging System



NorthGate is a warehouse-based 3PL and specializes in providing solutions to complex packaging systems. This *White Paper* illustrates the effectiveness of one of our leading products, the Gumwrapper™ Packaging System.

OVERVIEW

In 1993, NorthGate (known at that time as Security Packaging) developed the Gumwrapper™ Packaging System, a more efficient and cost-effective method to package sheet metal automotive parts for service applications.

With the innovative Gumwrapper™ system, containers incorporate all internal dunnage and arrive completely set-up and ready to use. Our Velcro® closure system enables easy loading and product inspection throughout the distribution cycle.

This system was originally engineered for shipping automotive sheet metal replacement parts such as, hoods, fenders, doors, doorskins, fleetside panels, tailgates, decklids, grills, and bumpers. However, the concept can be utilized for so many other products and applications.

ADVANTAGES

Customers report a wide variety of immediate and long-term benefits. The Gumwrapper™ Packaging System will allow you to:

- **Reduce Costs** – Because the container arrives to your facility completely set-up and ready to load, you will package parts more quickly, with less labor, and at lower cost.
- **Increase Productivity** – Package more parts with less labor, or package more parts in the same time. Either way, you save. Eliminate overtime hours and total labor costs.
- **Eliminate Racks** – You won't need costly production racks and you can eliminate all associated rack costs because you can unitize pre-assembled Gumwrappers™ on pallets. The Velcro® closure system also accommodates part movement throughout the stamping, assembly, and e-coating environments, without the need for production racks.
- **Satisfy Customers**– Dealers love our product. They simply open the Velcro® closure and remove the product—much simpler and safer than cutting bands and disassembling complicated packaging systems. This feature also promotes product wholesaleability.
- **Customize Packing** – We will design the right system for your application with products such as the collapsible Gumwrapper™ with our pop-up dunnage feature.
- **Improve Ergonomics** – Reduce risk of injury through minimal product movements and reduced hand operations.
- **Reduce Inventory** – Receive all of your packaging materials just-in-time, completely set-up, and ready to use.
- **Reduce Waste** – All internal dunnage is built inside the box, eliminating inventory imbalances.
- **Improve Quality** – Our Velcro® closure system lets you inspect the contents of a container quickly and easily throughout the entire distribution cycle. Use of the Gumwrapper™ simplifies the packaging process and reduces variability to avoid packaging parts incorrectly.
- **Eliminate Downtime** – You can completely eliminate lost time and labor costs associated with machine downtime and changeover.
- **Help the Environment** - Instead of foam inserts, most Gumwrappers™ use recyclable corrugated dunnage which is less costly to dispose of and more environmentally friendly.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

When we launched the Gumwrapper™ Packaging System we tackled and overcame many daunting obstacles such as reducing costs, improving just-in-time (JIT) delivery, and reducing product damage.

Few thought that we could deliver five timely loads per day. Today, we average more than 20 deliveries daily, with peak deliveries of almost 50 per day! Despite constantly changing schedules and short or non-existent lead times, we have recently surpassed **90,000 consecutive on-time deliveries**, all arriving within a five-minute window!

Additionally, the Gumwrapper™ Packaging System meets rigorous Federal Express testing, and we've been able to meet and exceed this requirement whenever specified.

We met these challenges and continue to remain competitive through our relentless pursuit for cost-savings and insistence on sharing those savings with our customers. This kind of proven success comes with the broad acceptance and widespread adoption of the Gumwrapper™ Packaging System.

CONCLUSION

NorthGate is a leader in packaging and delivery systems. Our Gumwrapper™ Packaging System is ideal for the automotive industry and other large Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) at a time when competition is tougher than ever. Adopting the Gumwrapper™ packaging system is the first step toward immediate cost savings, higher quality, increased customer satisfaction, and long-term continuous improvement.