

White Paper: Prepack Solutions for Retail Distribution and Warehouse Efficiency

Introduction

In the dynamic world of retail, efficient distribution and inventory management are critical to maintaining a competitive edge. Prepacks, also known as carton quantities, have emerged as a strategic solution to streamline the movement of products through warehouses and ensure that stores receive the right size runs for their inventory. This white paper explores the benefits and configurations of Prepacks, particularly in the context of men's apparel in the work wear sector.

The Role of Prepacks in Retail Distribution

Prepacks are designed to enhance the efficiency of product movement through warehouses. By prepackaging and labeling products before they reach the retailer, Prepacks eliminate the need for individual packaging or labeling at the retail level. This approach saves time and resources while ensuring consistent and efficient product presentation. Prepacks simplify inventory management, reduce product handling, and enable faster restocking, ultimately improving the overall customer experience.

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Individual Style/Color Prepack Configurations

To determine the best ratio of units by size in a prepack for men's apparel in the work wear sector, it is essential to consider current demand trends and preferences. Based on available information, a common and effective prepack configuration for men's apparel in sizes medium, large, x-large, and xx-large is as follows:

- Medium (M): 2 units
- Large (L): 2 units
- X-Large (XL): 1 unit
- XX-Large (XXL): 1 unit

This configuration, often referred to as a 2:2:1:1 ratio, is designed to meet the typical demand patterns observed in the work wear sector. Medium and large sizes tend to be more popular, hence the higher quantity, while x-large and xx-large sizes are included in smaller quantities to ensure availability without overstocking. The six-piece prepack allows for easy distribution and handling, as these units are typically individually polybagged and then master polybagged with a unique prepack UPC on the outside master polybag. When unpacked in stores, the inner contents are individually UPC'd to the SKU level.

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Alternate Prepack Configurations

In regions where larger size demographics exist, alternate prepack configurations may be more suitable. An example of such a configuration is:

- Medium (M): 1 unit
- Large (L): 2 units
- X-Large (XL): 2 units
- XX-Large (XXL): 1 unit

Larger Unit Prepacks for Higher Volume Stores

For higher volume stores, larger unit prepacks ensure a deeper quantity of units with less handling. An example configuration is:

- Medium (M): 2 units
- Large (L): 4 units
- X-Large (XL): 4 units
- XX-Large (XXL): 2 units

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Complete Store Setup Prepacks

More comprehensive prepacks can be created where entire cartons contain mixed style/color size components. For example, every store will receive six pieces (size ratio) of:

- Short Sleeve Pocket Tee: 3 colors
- Short Sleeve Logo Tee: 1 color
- Long Sleeve Logo Tee: 1 color

A total of 30 pieces are placed in a carton with the six-piece prepacks of each style and color, each with a unique UPC set on the outside box. The POS system, as it reads the master reference UPC, correlates all the individual SKUs contained inside as separate units in the store for sale.

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Conclusion

Prepacks are an effective solution for retail distribution, enhancing the efficiency of product movement through warehouses and ensuring that stores receive the right size runs for their inventory. This method not only simplifies inventory management but also improves the overall customer experience by providing a consistent and visually appealing product presentation. By adopting prepack solutions, retailers can optimize their supply chain operations and better meet the demands of their customers.

Stars Design Group remains committed to helping brands navigate these complexities with strategic insight, global resources, and operational excellence. **Connect with us** today to explore how we can help future-proof your apparel production and optimize your global sourcing strategy.

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