

# Less is More

This is our answer to the important question of how to ship the growing number of parcels sustainably. We do this by using air in an innovative way. Air makes up more than 99% of our protective packaging; less than 1% is fully recyclable material. Pregis International is an expert in air cushions, which solve your packaging challenges by increasing packaging speed and reducing packaging material, transport costs, storage space and return rates.



# 6 REASONS WHY PREGIS AIR CUSHIONS ARE ECO FRIENDLY

### More E-commerce

With the growth of online shopping, it is time for innovative ways to reduce packaging and minimize the impact on the environment.

### Less Energy

We only produce 100% reusable and recyclable packaging materials. Our products have the lowest carbon footprint in the industry, which makes them effective to manufacture, transport and recycle.

### Less Time

Since our products are manufactured on site and on demand, you will spend less time handling material and changing rolls. Integrating our inflators into your packing stations will cut down on storage space and increase both productivity and packing speed.

### Less Weight

Packing with air protects your products without adding excess weight to your package – it reduces both weight and the carbon footprint of the journey to your customer.

### Less Material

Our air cushions are made from 99% air, are fully recyclable and contain no harmful substances. Even the cores of our rolls are recycled and 100% recyclable. They are also RoHS and REACH certified and comply with EN13427 and ISO14021.

<p>100% Recyclable</p>	<p>99% Air</p>
<p>EU Regulations Compliant / Certified</p>	<p>Easy to dispose Only 1% of material</p>
<p>CO<sub>2</sub> saving Optimised transportation</p>	<p>Water-based ink</p>

**LESS IS MORE**

- + LESS MATERIAL
- + LESS ENERGY
- + LESS WASTE

## WHY NOT ?

<p><b>BIO-BASED PLASTIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complicates the recycling process when ending up in the plastic waste</li> </ul>	<p><b>PAPER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavier material to recycle</li> <li>• More material for protection</li> <li>• Recyclable only 5 times</li> <li>• 21 kg of paper used = 1 tree</li> </ul>	<p><b>BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Recycling: additive complicates recycling process</li> <li>• In Nature: Leaves micro-plastics</li> </ul>
---	--	--



**Pregis**  
 Nijverheidsweg 4 | 6422 PD Heerlen  
 The Netherlands  
 www.pregis.com

SOURCES: Plastic Packaging and the Environment, the British Plastics Federation (BPF)  
 An environmental comparison of polyethylene air filled cushions with paper-based alternatives, Intertek Study

## WHAT IS BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC?

Biodegradable plastics can be broken down by microorganisms into water, naturally occurring gases, and biomass. Success depends largely on surrounding environmental conditions like temperature and water and oxygen levels.

This means the degradation rate of biodegradable materials is often unreliable. It will differ greatly depending on where products are left to degrade.

## WHAT IS BIO-BASED PLASTIC?

'Bio-based' and 'biodegradable' are not synonymous.

Bio-based products are wholly or partly derived from biological material. Examples include paper and wood, but also plastics like PLA (Polylactic Acid) whose building blocks are produced from sugars.

## WHAT IS COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC?

Compostable materials break down naturally. The rate of composting is affected by surrounding environmental conditions. Most compostable plastics require the temperature, humidity and the oxygen that can only be found in industrial composting facilities and not in domestic environments.

According to the EN13432 standard, plastic packaging can only be called compostable if it is:

- **Biodegradable:** the packaging material and its relevant organic components naturally degrade;
- **Able to Disintegrate:** the material is indistinguishable from compost and, therefore, does not need to be screened out;
- **Not Ecotoxic:** the material has no negative effect on the composting process and does not produce toxic material.

## WHAT IS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY?

A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.

## WHAT ARE AIR CUSHIONS FROM PREGIS MADE FROM & WHY DO YOU CHOOSE THESE MATERIALS?

All our products are made from HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) or LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene).

This enables our products to be 100% recyclable, fitting with the European Commission's current and future policy and plans for a circular economy.

## ARE PREGIS AIR CUSHIONS RECYCLABLE & HOW DO I DISPOSE OF THEM?

Pregis air cushions are made of "virgin" Polyethylene, a non-contaminated plastic material that keeps them 100% recyclable throughout the whole recycling process.

If you choose not to keep and reuse our air cushions for your future protective packaging needs, you can dispose of deflated air cushions in the recycling bin where applicable. All of our products are clearly marked with the internationally recognised coding system.

If you are unsure, you can visit [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com) for help.

## WHAT IS ECO-FRIENDLY ABOUT PREGIS AIR CUSHIONS?

Pregis air cushions are 100% recyclable. 99% is air and only 1% of material is required to protect your products:

- This high yield means fewer pallets need to be shipped to you
- Your parcels will be lighter when packed with air
- The manufacturing and recycling of plastic requires minimal energy and water consumption

To make our air cushions fully recyclable, we use water-based ink that doesn't interfere with the recycling process. Our film core rolls are also made from recycled paper.

Our cushions comply with:

- **REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) - European Regulation**

And our inflators comply with:

- **ROHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) European Directive 2002/95/EC**

Pregis also complies with the following European regulations:

- **ISO14021 - Environmental labels and declarations - Self-declared environmental claims**
- **European directive on Packaging & Packaging Waste 91/62EC**

## WHY DON'T YOU OFFER BIODEGRADABLE AIR CUSHIONS?

Biodegradable plastics cannot be easily recycled and will contaminate a recycling stream when not correctly sorted. Labelling can cause consumers to be less responsible with proper disposal. Biodegradable materials often end up in landfill where the conditions do not allow them to effectively degrade.

## WHY DON'T YOU OFFER BIO-BASED PLASTICS?

We proactively work with our suppliers to find suitable alternative material, however, bioplastics are not yet recyclable. The inclusion of bioplastic can have a detrimental effect on the recycle that renders it unusable.

## BUT DON'T BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS DEGRADE IN THE OCEANS?

The ocean is too cold to break down plastics that only begin to degrade in temperatures above 50C. They are not buoyant, so sinking plastics are denied UV rays that would assist in degradation.

Currently, no materials have been proven to adequately biodegrade in an open marine environment.

## WHERE DOES PLASTIC IN THE OCEAN COME FROM?

98% of waste in our oceans originates from countries outside Europe and the United States. A small number of countries in Asia and around the Pacific Ocean account for over 80% of ocean waste. Countries such as China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand are recklessly disposing their waste on land on sites often located near oceans or rivers. These countries also largely lack access to solid waste collection facilities. Widespread education and access to proper disposal methods would eliminate this problem.