

Q1 - What does a pallet | stretch | skid | shrink wrapping machine do?



"**Pallet wrapper**" (aka. pallet wrapping machine) is the common term used to describe the majority of equipment offered for sale by Wrapper Direct. Other terms interchangeably used are: **stretch wrapper** (aka. stretch wrapping machine), **skid wrapper** (skid wrapping machine), and **shrink wrapper** (shrink wrapping machine).

Pallet wrapping machines are designed to partially or completely automate the process of "**wrapping**" loads that are on pallets with inexpensive and easy to manage "plastic". Common terms for this *plastic* are "**Hand Wrap**", "**Machine Wrap**", "**Plastic Wrap**" and "**Stretch Film**".

The primary reason for wrapping pallet loads is to keep them from falling apart during transport. Products contained in this way are much more likely to maintain load integrity during transport, and arrive intact at their destination ... **reducing or eliminating transportation damage**. *In fact, many transport carriers will not accept pallet loads unless they are wrapped.*

Other **advantages of wrapping** include:

- theft deterrence
- dust protection
- weather proofing

Advantages of using a wrapping machine include:

- help alleviate ergonomic and safety concerns
- provide wrapping consistency (vs hand wrapping by operators)
- manpower savings - semi-automatic models do not require the active participation of the operator throughout the whole wrap cycle, allowing him/her to work productively elsewhere while the load is wrapped automatically
- cost savings - a wrapper with a pre-stretch film dispenser, keeps film costs low, and maintains the quality load retention that only pre-stretch can provide and helping to ensure that shipped loads arrive intact (see [FAQ - Pre-stretch vs Conventional Film Dispensers](#))
- process efficiencies - fully automatic models (with conveyors) automate the packaging process such that an operator is not required at all except to replenish film when the machine wrap runs out



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