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Topic - IV

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## Packaging Process in Garment Industry

### Garment Packaging:

Garment packaging is the process of wrapping, compressing, filling or creating of goods for the purpose of protection and their appropriate handling. This is the final process in the production of garments, which prepares the finished merchandise for delivery to the customer. It is an important part of the garment manufacturing process. Garment packaging is also use to get lot of attention from the customer. These operations come under the materials handling methods and are no less important than other systems used in the factory. After completing the entire manufacturing task, apparel is required to be packed. After packing, it is placed in cartons as per instructions and then it is stored in a store section before it is delivered to the respective buyer.

Packaging refers to the container that carries a product. Two basic objectives of packaging are preventing any damage to the product during transportation and enhancing the features of the product to the consumer for a sale of it.

### Packaging has two major functions:

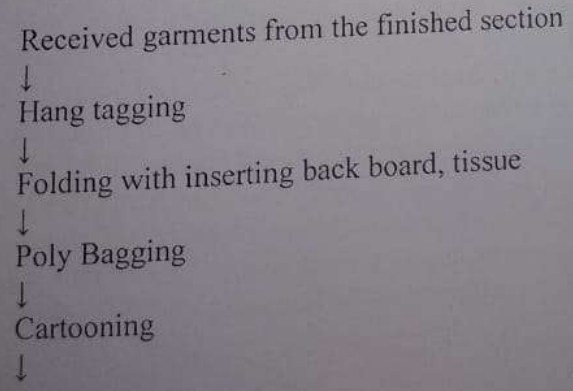
- Distribution
- Merchandising

The main purpose of distribution packaging is packaging the garment in a way that it allows the garment manufacturers to transport the garment at a minimum cost and in the shortest time to the retailer or purchaser, without deteriorating the quality of the product. The merchandising function deals with showcasing the garment product in a way that it stimulates consumer desire for purchasing the particular product.

### Requirements of Garment Packing:

The plastic bags are most commonly used for garment packing either at the completion of production or when they arrive at the finished goods stores. Apparel such as shirts and underwear is usually bagged and boxed immediately after final inspection and enters the stores in prepacked form. Other hanging garments like jackets, dresses and skirts are usually bagged when they enter the stores. A carton package made of quite strong corrugated material is normally preferred while transporting the boxed or hanging garments in bulk form. The packed garment boxes are sealed by contact adhesive paper tape or bound with a plastic tape.

### Flowchart of Garment Packaging:



Applied adhesive tape on the pack

↓  
Bar-coding

↓  
Packing complete

**Types of Package Forms:**

The basic types of package forms used in apparel and allied products are

- Bags
- Boxes
- Cartons
- Cases
- Crates
- Twine
- Wrappers

**Types of Packing Materials:**

The simple packaging materials used in garment and related items are paper, plastic, film, wood, nails, staples, cords, gum tape and metal bands.

1. Wood cases and crates are generally used as packing materials for bulk exports or rugged shipments where shipment handling is higher.
2. Paper and plastic film packaging materials are used in the garment and related industries. The paper types such as kraft, crepe, tissue, paper foil, paper board and waterproof are typically used as packing materials. Plastic films have a major advantage over paper because of clarity in range.

**Quality Specifications for Packaging Materials:**

Quality specifications for packaging paper and film are similar to that of fabric. The basic quality factors in paper and films are

**1. Properties**

- Clarity
- Thickness
- Width and length
- Weight
- Yield

**2. Characteristics**

- Tensile strength
- Elongation
- Bursting and tearing strength
- Flammability
- Porosity
- Air/moisture permeability
- Sunlight transference
- Resistance to odours

**Types of Garment Packing in Finishing Section:**  
 The flowchart shown in Figure-1 gives the idea of selection of garment packing methods to ensure merchandise is floor ready.  
**The most commonly used types of garment packing are given below:**

**Stand-up pack:**

This type of packing is commonly used for shirts and hence termed as 'shirt packing'. For this type of packing, the garments have to be **pressed** prior to packing and are packed with additional packing materials like tissue paper, back support, pins or clips, inner collar patty, outer patty, etc. The stand-up garment package and the accessories used are shown in Figure-2.

**The advantages of the stand-up pack are:**

- It is an attractive pack so it enhances the appeal of the garments to the customer.
- It is a safer pack as it has inner and outer cartons, therefore the packed garments can be handled easily.
- On account of its better presentation, it can increase the sales of a product.

**The disadvantages of the stand-up pack are:**

- It is costlier.
- It needs many packing materials.
- It involves a lot of effort as well as time.
- Unpacking of this kind of package needs more time and once-unpacked it is tough to repack.
- In case it is crushed by any source, creases and wrinkles are formed on the garments and thus the pressed condition is disturbed.

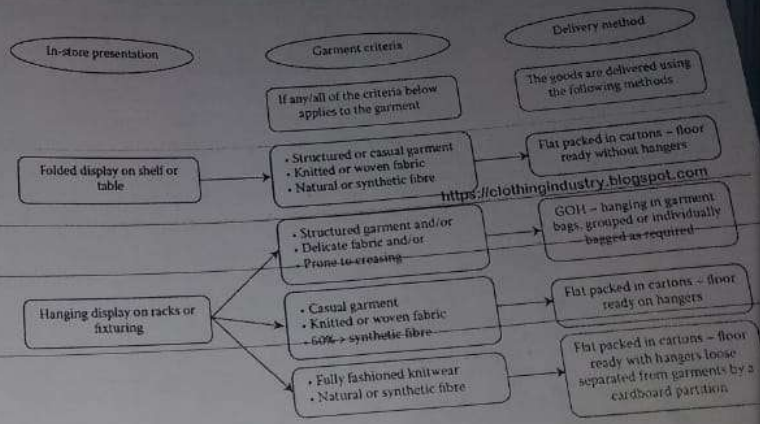


Figure-1: Flow chart for determining packing methods

**Flat pack:**

In this packing method, the garments are pressed and folded well as like in a stand-up pack, however with less additional packing materials. It is generally normally used for ladies' garments and has a flat surface (Figure-3). The size of the folding is based on the garment style and specifications of the buyer. The common sizes of flat pack are 8" x 10" and 10" x 12".

**The merits and demerits of flat pack are:**

- It is less expensive than the stand-up pack as it requires less material.
- It is less attractive than the stand-up pack.
- For shirts it does not present the beauty of the collar portion very well.
- The disadvantages are the same as that of the stand-up pack.

**Hanger pack:**

It is a simple garment packing method where the garments are secured in a poly bag with a hanger after pressing (Figure-4). Here polybag is the only material used. This type of packing can be used for all types of garments especially for blazers, coats, pants, etc.

**The merits and demerits of a hanger pack are:**

- Because of its simplicity it reduces the cost of packing and materials.
- All the components/panels of the garments could be seen easily without removing the bag.
- The time for packing and unpacking is less.
- Material handling is not easy.

**Deadman pack:**

This kind of packing is used for shirts. Here, the sleeves are folded in front of the pack and pinned with each other. Next, the garments are folded in the center. As it resembles the appearance of dead body, it is called a 'deadman pack'. It is a simple packing method using only pins or clips and polybags.

**The merits and demerits of this pack are:**

- The costs of packing materials and packing are less compared with other methods due to its simplicity.
- The packing and unpacking time is less.
- Garments can be examined in the packed condition.
- This type of packing enables easy handling of garments.
- This type of packing is not suitable for shirts because it does not show the collar and the collar point as in the stand-up pack; hence, it is less attractive.

**Types of Carton Packing:**

After garment packaging, the process of cartoning is carried out based on the size of the apparel and its color. Most used packing types are given below.

1. Solid colour solid size pack
2. Solid colour assorted size pack
3. Assorted colour solid size pack
4. Assorted colour assorted size pack

**Information provided in carton boxes is given below:**

- Carton box number
- Order number
- Style, colour
- Number of pieces in each colour and style
- Total number of pieces
- From address and To address
- Contact number
- Net weight of the carton box
- Dimension of the carton box