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A periodic newsletter which addresses the "third part" of single-use expendable packaging, our business/industry and the full life cycle needs of our customers.

Part-1 *pre-manufacturing services*; design, samples, testing, molds, etc...

Part-2 is the bulk of what our business actually is - *manufacturing*.

Part-3 *post-mfg. services*; recycled materials, recycling, environmental support, resources and tomorrow's "green" solutions.

A new look for 2013

This newsletter began about three years ago and was the first of it's kind. Interestingly, it is still the only molder sponsored news piece aimed almost solely at environmental issues.



Let's Talk Curbside Recycling

A perceived drawback to using molded foam packaging, EPS in particular, is the effort it takes to recycle it. We say *perceived* because the **recycling resources or infrastructure of any material needs to match the waste stream size of the same**, which is usually also attached to the material's output in the first place.

For example; compared to glass, aluminum and paper, there are not nearly as many places to recycle EPS and many people cannot do it on a curbside basis. Why is that?

Let's look at two industries' output in the U.S.A. The glass industry generates about 20 million tons/yr according to their own "Glass Industry Analysis Brief". The EPA estimates about 71 million tons of paper and paperboard are manufactured here. How do those compare to EPS? In the U.S. about 170

million lbs of EPS is produced each year; which is 85,000 tons. That is less than 10% of one million tons.

Paper = 71 million tons.

Glass = 20 million tons.

(using the one million ton scale...)

EPS = less than 10% of 1 million tons.

Can that be right? We'll continue on page-2

New and improved recycled EPS available now



Thanks in part to Rapac's original efforts to develop recycled EPS, of which Foam Fabricators, Inc (FFI) extensively tested then became the largest customer of... Nova has now drastically increased the capacity of it's new recycled EPS. All this means more material can be recycled and more products can be produced from recycled EPS! See this [link](#) for more information.



Not only Packaging...

EPS and other molded foams are used for many things besides packaging and it's not always white. Molded EPS ducks >>>



Above you see a few EPS parts, most notably the bicycle helmets. FFI has made many of those over the years. For some of you, it could be said that we have packaged your head too!

Curbside Recycling cont.



Yes... those numbers are all correct.

But admittedly keeping millions of tons in perspective or context, and comparing them to 170 million lbs is not easy - so let's simplify it.

71 million tons (paper) is 142,000,000,000 lbs. If you divide that number by 300 million; the rough count of people here in America, that's 473 lbs per person. That is a number which is easy to understand and remember.

Glass at 20 million tons is 40,000,000,000 lbs, or, 133lbs per person.

EPS? Less than 1 lb per person.



Wow. Can that really be right?

The numbers we're starting with are, all four industries' "self-report" and there's a lot of publicly available info. too. Aluminum's numbers are similar...

Here's the big driver. Think about *waste streams*. Glass, paper and aluminum all **flow from the grocery store into your home almost every single day**. But how often do you end up with a piece of molded foam? Only when you buy a new appliance, tv, pc or maybe have medicine shipped to your home. All very infrequently. **Maybe a few times a year** as opposed to a few times a week.

To be fair, we need to consider "import/export" which happens to all of these materials. All the paper produced does not stay here. Additionally, durable goods have to be considered. Most EPS is single use, not all, but much of it. Especially in the case of glass (windows) much of that is a durable good with a low impact on the waste stream. But a lot of glass is used for packaging too...

But still, if we cut the paper and glass numbers down by 75%, we're still talking 30 to 100 times more material per person than EPS.

With relationships like that and the waste flows of things like paper and glass - curbside recycling for them is a must! If it were otherwise, we would all be buried by those materials in no time.

At less than a pound/person/yr of EPS, existing resources work pretty well and maybe are almost the right size and scope now, after all.