

New and improved recyclable packaging under way for PROSOCO products

PROSOCO
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PROSOCO has improved its recyclable “bag-in-a-box” packaging to make it sturdier and more weather-resistant.

The company, a manufacturer of products that clean, protect and maintain concrete, brick and stone architecture, has used recyclable packaging since September on four of its most important products. The recyclability initiative is part of the company’s transition from hard plastic HDPE containers, according to the company’s Vice President for Production Bruce M. Boyer.

The four products are Sure Klean® Weatherseal Siloxane PD and Blok-Guard® & Graffiti Control II; and Consolideck® Saltguard® WB and LS™ (lithium silicate) hardener/densifier for concrete floors.

The products are protective treatments for concrete and masonry.

The bag-in-a-box system is a mixed-plastic bladder inside a double-walled corrugated cardboard box. These first products are available in a 5-gallon (18.9 liters) version.



66 5 gallon bladders in a

Less is more. – PROSOCO employee Rhonda Green shows off the difference in size between the 66 bladders and the 66 five-gallon containers needed to treat a 50,000 square-foot job. The smaller pile is more economical, since less volume helps reduce waste-hauling fees.

The 5-gallon box is 12 inches high, 11 inches wide and 9 inches deep. It features a water-repellent coating that doesn’t interfere with recycling.

A weather-resistant Tyvek “hat” further protects pallet shipments of the bag-in-a-box products. The durable sheet completely covers

the top of the shipment, and extends halfway down the sides.

PROSOCO plans in coming months to make these and other products available in a 55-gallon bag-in-a-box container, and a 265-gallon bag-in-a-box tote.

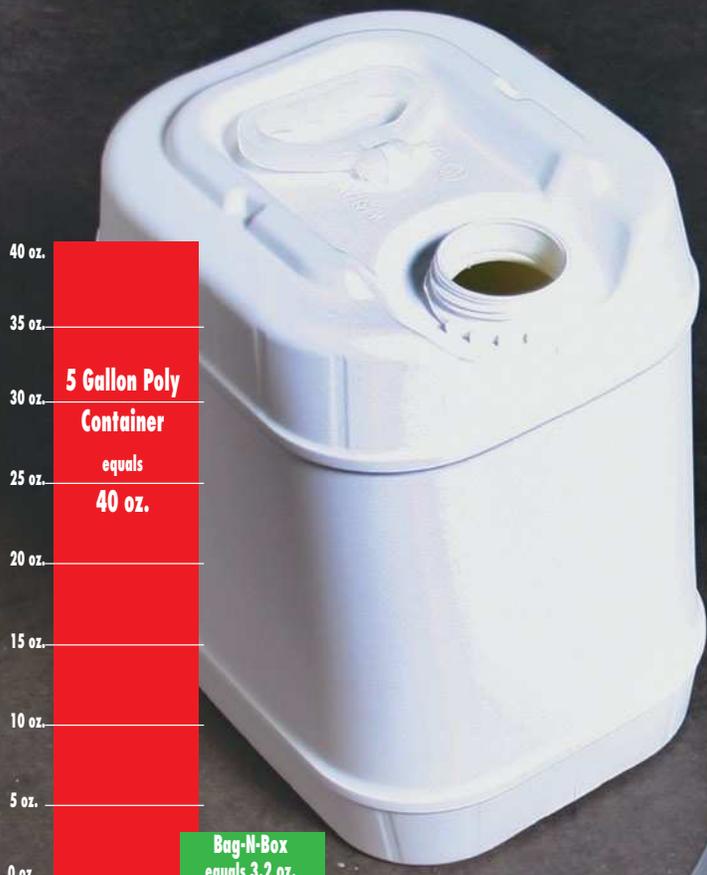
Recyclability and easy job site disposal are two of the reasons PROSOCO is switching to the bag-in-a-box system, said Mr. Boyer. The cardboard box, which is 93 percent of the packaging, is completely recyclable.

The bladder, while not currently recyclable, drains completely enough to meet RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) standards to be disposed of without rinsing – a time-saver at the job site, he said.

The bladder also dramatically reduces the amount of material going into the landfill, from 2.5 pounds for the HDPE hard plastic container to 3.2 ounces for the bladder.



Bag-in-a-box products.



Bag-in-a-box packaging under way for PROSOCO products

Fat vs. flat – You could fit 144 of these bag-in-a-box bladders into the same space as one of these 5-gallon containers – including the spouts.



Recyclable – The corrugated cardboard box the bladder or “bag” comes in is 93 percent of the container system – and it is 100 percent recyclable.

For a typical Siloxane PD project of 50,000 square feet, that works out to 13 pounds of bladder going to the landfill, compared to 165 pounds of HDPE hard plastic container – a reduction of more than 90 percent.

Volume reduction is equally dramatic. The bladder, including its plastic spout, is .007 of a cubic foot, while the HDPE container measures out at just over a cubic foot.

That means you get 144 bladders into the same space as one HDPE container.

That’s good for contractors, since less volume helps reduce waste-hauling fees from the job site and tipping fees at the landfill.

These “green” features will help PROSOCO get bag-in-a-box products specified, said Dwayne Fuhlhage, the company’s

Regulatory Affairs Director. Building owners and architects increasingly prefer environmentally responsible products and packaging.

The recyclable box may also help architects get LEED credits, he said. Fuhlhage added that current and upcoming state and federal regulations are pushing packaging away from hard-to-recycle HDPE containers and toward containers made from renewable resources, like cardboard.

“We’re doing all we can to ensure no contractor is denied access to job sites because product packaging didn’t comply with regulations,” he said. Fuhlhage added that some building owners – Walmart is one – are specifying that contractors must remove empty containers from job sites.

“Bag-in-a-box makes that a lot

easier,” he said.

The system is also sturdy and durable, Boyer said. In company tests, the boxes withstood many times their filled weight from heavy containers stacked on top. They also stayed intact after incidental contact with forklifts. In some tests, the bladders even survived direct hits from forklift prongs better than traditional plastic totes.

The water-based, VOC-compliant products in the bag-in-a-box packaging also promote sustainability, Boyer commented. They protect and enhance the appearance, performance and service life of masonry and concrete, both widely agreed to be among the most environmentally responsible of building materials.