

PP HONEYCOMB BOARD FOR PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH IN PACKAGING



The advantage of continuous production of honeycomb core materials at high speeds, high volumes, with lowest possible costs has enabled EconCore to license its technology around the world for applications in transportation, automotive, building and construction and, of course, packaging.

Packaging in fact remains the largest share of EconCore's licensing business, from its first licensee in Japan (Gifu Plastic Industry) focusing on lightweight high-performance polypropylene honeycomb-cored sandwiched panels to Karton in Italy and Roplast in Turkey focusing on reusable packaging so that today a significant percentage of the OEM market in Europe relies on industrial packaging solutions made using EconCore technology.



The honeycomb structure is key, with its optimal material utilization for performance. Comparing the true honeycomb structure to other core structures confirms this performance advantage. Consider the conventional fluted, twin-wall corrugated, design with its direction-specific structure, or cup-shaped core structures used as well in some automotive applications, honeycomb core material out-performs both in bending stiffness, compression strength, while using significantly less material.

This performance advantage is clearly seen in reusable packaging applications with products made using EconCore technology. Comparing a number of different sleeve packs of same size and areal density (3000 g/m²) for maximum compression loading shows honeycomb having much higher performance from just under 25% up to almost 90% higher maximum compression loading over all other core types tested.



Reusable packaging made using EconCore technology is emerging as the new standard in performance and presents opportunity for sleeve pack producer to offer highest performing solution, reduce weight per piece or both, leading to substantial bottom line benefits through reduced material and energy costs and potentially at even higher output speeds.

Applications: Reusable packaging, full range of sleeve packs, layer pads, dunnage, foldable storage and delivery boxes, graphical displays, automotive interior, van cladding....



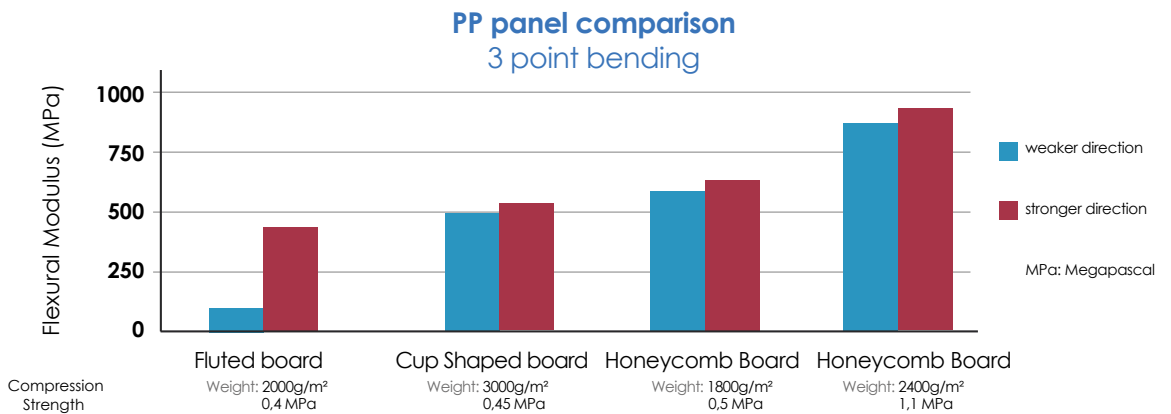
Key advantages:

- Increased performance at reduced weight
- Equal performance in both directions
- Reduced PP usage versus traditional PP board
- Reduced production cost versus traditional PP board
- Excellent surface appearance
- Excellent impact resistance
- Excellent compression strength

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Versatility of the technology is important and provides users with ability to offer product range to meet their market requirements. One production line can cover full range of sleeve packs, layer pads and other dunnage, storage and delivery boxes among other applications. Extending from packaging into automotive PP honeycomb panels are ideally suited for a number of interior applications, replacing hardwood for example in the trunk space and for van wall cladding.

Experience gained over time means continuous improvement with each installation of the technology. This benefits both current users and new users deciding to license EconCore technology. With the new standard in performance, an attractive investment level compared to alternatives and favorable return on investment, and a product range to meet market needs, the opportunity is ripe for new investors in EconCore technology for packaging.



Compression Strength

