

# Paperboard Packaging

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In association with the  
American Forest and Paper Association  
and the  
Paperboard Packaging Council

# The History of Paperboard Packaging

# History of Paperboard

- 100 AD Ts'ai Lun developed first papermaking process
  - Remains the basic method used to make paperboard today
- 1400s Paper introduced to Europe and England
- 1690 First rag paper machine built in US near Philadelphia
- 1700s Wasps observed chewing wood and making “paper”
- 1790s Workable continuous paper machine developed
- 1800s Fourdrinier brothers received patents
  - Primary method of making paperboard today
- 1809 Patents issued for cylinder machine
- 1817 First cylinder machine installed in America
- 1827 First Fourdrinier machine installed in America

# History of Paperboard (con't)

- 1839 Boston jeweler makes set-up boxes
- 1860 – 1880 Folding carton emerges
  - Shipped flat to save space
  - Set up by customer when ready to pack
- 1879 Mechanical die cutting and creasing of blanks developed
- 1890s Composite can introduced when paper plugs added to paper tubes
- 1896 National Biscuit Company introduces crackers in folding carton and folding cartons become a major means of packing, distributing and marketing products

# History of Paperboard (con't)

- 1911 First kraft sulfate mill started in Pensacola, Florida
- 1915 Gable top milk carton patented
- 1935 First dairy plant uses gable top cartons
- 1960s First shipments of frozen citrus concentrate in composite can
- 1968 First aseptic system installed in Switzerland
- 1970s P&G introduces first snack food, Pringles® in a hermetically sealed composite can
- 1974 Ovenable paperboard introduced
- 1980s Aseptic packaging introduced to US by Tetra Pak

# Definition of Paperboard

The Paperboard Packaging Council (PPC) defines a folding carton as:

“A container of varying size and shape made from bending grades of paperboard or small flute corrugated board; which is typically printed, cut and creased, folded and glued, and delivered flat to the customer where it is filled with product for distribution to retail outlets.”

Source: Paperboard Packaging Council

Today paperboard packaging plays an important role in marketing products to consumers and industry.

Paperboard Packaging has many forms:

- Aseptic packaging
- Beverage carriers
- Blister pack cards
- Composite cans
- Folding Cartons
- Headers for hanging display
- Liquid packaging (gable top cartons)
- Ovenable paperboard
- Sanitary food containers
- Set-up boxes
- Skin packaging

The following is a summary time line of important events in paperboard packaging:

- 100 AD Papermaking process invented in China
- 1400s Paper introduced to Europe
- 1494 Paper introduced to England
- 1690 William Rittenhouse builds first rag paper machine in America at Germantown, PA
- 1700s Rene de Reaumur observes wasps chewing wood to make a "paper" hive
- 1790s Workable machine developed to make paper in a continuous web
- 1800-1810 Fourdrinier brothers received patent for improved continuous paper machine
- 1809 Patent issued in England for multiply cylinder machine
- 1817 First cylinder machine installed in America



## The summary time line continues:

- 1827 First Fourdrinier machine installed in America
- 1839 Set up boxes for jewelry made in Boston, MA
- 1860-1880 Folding cartons emerge as packaging material
- 1879 Mechanical die cutting and creasing developed
- 1896 National Biscuit Company (now Kraft Foods) introduced cracker in a folding carton
- 1911 First kraft sulfate mill started in Pensacola, FL
- 1915 Gable top milk carton patented
- 1935 First gable top milk carton used by dairy plant
- 1974 Ovenable paperboard introduced by Pressware (now IP)
- 1980s Aseptic packaging introduced to US by TetraPak