

RISCO Group UK Ltd is continuously striving to reduce the environmental impact of its operation. You will have noticed that we use plastic 'air cushions' to protect our products in our deliveries to our customers. A few customers have questioned if it would be more environmentally sound to use cardboard or paper based packaging as 'void fill'.

We have raised the question with our packaging supplier and have had a positive response that we would like to pass onto you.

- Polythene uses 81% less energy to make than Kraft paper.
- Polythene produces 91% less combined air and waste water pollution than Kraft paper in production.
- 16 rolls of NOVUS Double Cushion (which we use as void fill) is equivalent to a full trailer truckload of pre-made 12.5mm bubble packaging – this reduces transportation needs.
- Heavier void fill products (e.g. paper or cardboard) result in even more truckloads and therefore a greater environmental burden.
- NOVUS air cushions, when filled with air, are 2% plastic and 98% air. This reduces the weight of the parcels and hence results in lower fuel emissions.
- The air cushions can be reused many times.
- Once they are at the end of their lifetime they can be recycled with plastic bags at recycling points and are used in the manufacture of other products.
- Polyethylene has an infinite recycle life, paper can only be recycled between 5 and 6 times before fibres breakdown.
- If the plastic does end up in land fill it is bio stable and will not degrade to pollute air or water. If paper or cardboard ends up in land fill and degrades then it leaches chemicals used in the production process into the environment.

Whilst all of the above are very good points, we, along with other users, are still pushing the manufacturer to produce even more ecologically aware products.

Plans include utilising an element of recycled plastics in future production and the inclusion of a compound that enables the plastic to degrade stably under certain conditions.

We will keep you informed of any future developments.

Purchasing Dept.