

# Carton Sealing Applications

Corrugated cartons are commonly sealed in one of the following ways: paper or reinforced paper gummed tape (water-activated tape), pressure-sensitive self-adhesive tape, hot melt glue, or staples. Each of these methods has advantages and disadvantages depending upon the applications for which they are used.

Type	Advantages	Disadvantages	Best Uses
<b>Water Activated Tape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong, secure seal</li> <li>Adhesive forms a permanent bond</li> <li>Resistant to dust &amp; dirt, extremes of heat &amp; cold, UV light &amp; humidity</li> <li>Holds integrity even when damaged</li> <li>Printable</li> <li>Tamper-resistant</li> <li>Recyclable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs water and tape dispensing machine for application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heavy or large cartons</li> <li>Individually shipped cartons</li> <li>Pick-and-pack operations</li> <li>Frozen or refrigerated environments</li> <li>Over- or under-stuffed cartons</li> <li>Re-used or recycled cartons</li> </ul>
<b>Pressure-Sensitive Tape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Portable</li> <li>Transparent</li> <li>Easy to use</li> <li>Works well in automatic case sealers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sticks to anything it touches, including itself</li> <li>Noisy ("chatters") when unrolled</li> <li>Doesn't stick well under dusty or dirty conditions</li> <li>Not resistant to UV light, cold, heat or humidity</li> <li>Fails if torn or punctured</li> <li>Stretches</li> <li>"Pops off" if carton is not rigid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Light weight cartons</li> <li>Cartons which will be palletized and shrink wrapped</li> </ul>
<b>Hot Melt Glue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong, permanent bond</li> <li>Unaffected by cold, heat, light or humidity extremes</li> <li>Adapts well to high-speed production packaging lines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Messy and potentially dangerous to operating personnel due to high heat required</li> <li>Leaking glue or heat may cause damage to product being packaged</li> <li>Application equipment requires high maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heavy products on high speed packaging lines, where all cartons are of uniform size.</li> <li>Typical applications would be canned goods or paint</li> </ul>
<b>Staples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong, robust seal</li> <li>Tamper evident</li> <li>Holds carton together even when stressed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hard to open</li> <li>Carton is usually damaged when opened</li> <li>Can be hazardous to handlers</li> <li>Unacceptable to many shipping companies</li> <li>Requires additional corrugated liner or overlapped flaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very heavy items which will be shipped on a pallet by truck or rail</li> </ul>

## Applications Assistance

For further information and assistance with your specific application, contact us at 1-800-722-8002, or fill out the request for information.



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