

Performance Foams Provide Soft Solution for Automotive Components

Dow Performance Foams meets the challenge as Linpac Materials Handling incorporates ETHAFOAM polyethylene foam and SYNERGY soft touch foam into specialized shipping containers for the Ford Motor Company.

The Ford Motor Company needed the painted bumpers for its Transit van protected from any damage to the paintwork during shipment to the assembly facility. Although this represented a new challenge, Ford felt Linpac Materials Handling was up to the task as the division was already providing shipping containers to the automaker.

Linpac Materials Handling, a division of the Linpac Group, was quite capable of providing the shell of the container but called on sister division Linpac Moulded Foams and Dow Performance Foams to develop the internal cushioning. The outcome was called the leafscreen transport container –



an internal packaging design using a combination of SYNERGY* 1000 soft touch foam and ETHAFOAM* 900 polyethylene foam. Relatively new to the market, SYNERGY 1000 foam is a durable yet resilient, low-density closed-cell foam, ideally suited as a cushioning material in delicate, low-abrasion applications. These properties made SYNERGY 1000 foam the perfect choice for direct-contact packaging of the bumpers, as it would not mar the paintwork. Due to its strong, high-density

Leafscreen Transport System

composition, ETHAFOAM 900 foam was used to provide structural stability to the custom interior packaging. The rigid ETHAFOAM 900 foam held the bumpers firmly in place during shipping, so the only thing to come into contact with the paintwork was the SYNERGY 1000 soft touch foam.

The combination of SYNERGY 1000 and ETHAFOAM 900 foams from Dow Performance Foams allowed Linpac as a whole to work with one supplier that offered the expertise and quality product to successfully meet its client's expectations. In fact, the leafscreen transport container has been so successful, it has been nominated for an Institute of Packaging "Star Pack" award, the most prestigious honor in the U.K. packaging industry.