

WOOD PALLETS – AN IMPORTANT U.S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT

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Abstract: Wood pallets are used to move, store and ship products in the U.S. This is not only a major wood using industry in the U.S., but also in most industrialized countries around the world. Our wood pallet industry uses a variety of materials to make pallets. The companies also recover, repair, resell and recycle pallets. We will present a Wood Pallet 101 short course on new pallet types and sizes and information on the various types of repairs used to make damaged pallets safe and reusable. We will also discuss methods employed to make pallets useable for international trade. We will finish by presenting historic and current data on wood use and recycling by the wood pallet industry.

Why Relevant: This is the largest industrial wood using industry in North America. Our industry is very different from the pallet industry in Europe. It should be very helpful to understand these differences and to be given the latest wood use and recycling statistics.