

Heavy manufacturing equipment meets its match with SURECrate[®] custom engineered solution

Cleveland's Mayfran International delivers its conveyor systems to machine tool companies across the continent with efficient paperboard solution

Shipping major manufacturing equipment around the globe is no simple task, requiring significant logistics planning and coordination between manufacturers and suppliers.

For Mayfran International, a Cleveland-based global leader in scrap and material handling solutions, delivering its conveyor systems to its customers in the same quality condition in which they left the manufacturing floor is a top priority. Mayfran's customized solutions run the gamut from complex plant integration to unique paint jobs and are all a part of the company's customer commitment—so the proper shipping techniques are critical to maintain that quality promise.

In late 2015, Mayfran's continuous improvement efforts led to the development of a new way to ship its chip conveyor systems to its machine tool customers throughout the United States, and it was made possible through its partners at S&S and Laminations.



A Packaging Challenge

In 2015, Mayfran discovered that some of its chip conveyor systems were experiencing slight damage due to the traditional wooden crating used to house the units during transit. The conveyors would experience skidding, causing some boards to break. This breakage caused wood to vibrate, leaving a visible mark against the paint of Mayfran's machines.

"As soon as we discovered the issue we were having with our wooden framing, we knew it was unacceptable and we sought an immediate solution," said Bob Clinton, Process & Quality Control Manager, Mayfran International. "Continuous improvement is something we live by. Neither our customers who expect the best, nor our employees who put in the hard work, deserve this sort of incidental shipping damage to our products."

Knowing he had a problem to solve, Bob began working closely with Fred Peschke of S & S in Cleveland and Suzanne von Valtier of Laminations, both packaging specialists for their respective companies. A new solution was proposed: replace the wooden crate with Laminations SURECrate® Custom Engineered Solution, a product custom designed and perfectly suited for Mayfran's needs.

A New Alternative to Wood and Steel Crating from Laminations

Compared with the old wooden crating, SURECrate offered superior strength and cracking resistance, rooting out the vibration issue at its source. And in meeting all necessary requirements for international shipping (doesn't require heat treated lumber), Mayfran found a solution it could use across all its global shipping needs.

"We started by building a test model to assess the feasibility of the new material," said Jarrod Lotz, Quality Specialist, Mayfran International. "We built it, everything functioned as planned, and we had our new way to ship chip conveyors."

"In addition to solving the damage issue," Suzanne von Valtier of Laminations adds, "Lamination's SURECrate solution offers a better overall experience compared to wood crating." The ability to add custom print options SURECrate offered a new, polished look for Mayfran shipments, complete with the company logo for enhanced recognition. "SURECrate is also 100% recyclable," said von Valtier, "making it easy to dispose of for Mayfran's customers as they can disassemble the SURECrate, and recycle it in their normal corrugated waste stream."

"The solution we were able to develop with Great Northern Laminations was a success on every front," said Lou Faraci, Shipping Manager, Mayfran International. "We're now better able to keep our quality commitment to our customers—it's what continuous improvement is all about, and it's the most important part of our business."

Peschke added, "In my 35 years with S & S Inc I have seen a lot of innovations in packaging. I was still surprised to see a cost effective wood replacement. Over the years, Laminations has brought us many new products to help our customers solve their packaging challenges."

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