

Packaging Terminology

Amber

A brown color of glass or plastic containers used primarily to protect the contents of the container from exposure to light.

Application Cap

A closure designed to be used to apply the contents of a container.

Artwork

An original design intended for reproduction.

Bead

The depressed or raised circles or rings in the top of a closure. Also known as a rounded depression around the surface of a container or end; used to stiffen or improve its appearance.

Blow Molding

A method of fabrication in which a warm plastic parison (hollow tube) is placed between the two halves of a mold (cavity) and forced to assume the shape of that mold cavity by the use of air pressure.

Buttress Thread

A design of thread profile (cross-section) which takes the form of a right triangle or slight modification of that form. It is usually positioned so that the right angle is at the bottom of the thread cross-section and adjacent to the neck of the bottle finish. The horizontal leg of the right triangle is the bearing surface for a matching cap thread.

Capacity

The amount of space inside a container provided for a given amount of product.

Carboy

A largeware container used principally for acids and chemicals.

Chuck

Component of a capping machine.

Closure

A term used to describe a metal or molded cap which effects a primary seal when properly applied to a container for the purpose of retaining the contents and preventing contamination thereof.

Copolymer

A material whose chemical structure is made up of long chains of two differently structured chemical units (monomers), which repeat a more or less regular pattern in the chain.

CT Closure

A continuous thread design that begins near the bottom of the closure skirt and continues upward toward the liner with the correct number of turns depending on the closure size designation.

Density

Weight per unit volume of a substance, expressed in grams per cubic centimeter, pounds per cubic foot, etc.

Drop Test

Any test method in which the article being tested is dropped in a specified manner for a specified number of times or until the article fails from impact.

Dropper Cap

A bottle closure that includes a dropper and a rubber bulb attached.

Embossing and Debossing

Creating a design on the surface of a container or closure by raising the letters through pressure dies.

Debossing is lowering portions of the surface in a like manner.

EVOH

Ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer. A high-barrier plastic resin used in packaging.

Finish The material surrounding the neck opening of any container which is designed to accommodate a specific closure.

Fitment

A device used as a part of a closure assembly to accomplish a certain purpose, such as a dropper, sprinkler, powder shaker, etc.

Flash

Extra plastic attached to a molding along the parting line; it must be removed before the part can be considered finished.

Flame Treating

A method of rendering inert thermoplastic object receptive to inks, lacquers, paints, adhesives, etc., in which the object is bathed in an open flame to promote oxidation of the surface of the article.

Flat Top

A cap or shell in which the top is perfectly straight across its entire diameter, without a bead or design.

Flint

A term used to describe a glass color which is clear and transparent.

Flowed-In Gasket

Gasket formed by flowing a liquid material (vinyl or latex) directly into a gasket groove and curing in place, usually by baking.

Fluorination

A process to reduce permeability and improve the chemical resistance of various plastics and elastomers. When fluorine gas is brought into contact with a polymer, its molecular structure is altered on all exposed surfaces.

G-Cap (G-450)

A 70 millimeter closure with a deep screw threaded skirt.

Head Space

The space between the level of the contents in the neck of a container and the closure. It is intended to furnish room for expansion of product due to heat or other action after packing.

Heat Transfer Label

A label applied to a container by transferring the label, preprinted on a substrate, to the container surface.

Inner Seal

An additional seal applied to the land area of the finish prior to, or during the application of the closure.

Injection Blow Molding

A two stage process where a preform or parison is injected molded. The bottle finish is formed at this time. The preform is then transferred to a blow mold where the bottle takes its final shape.

Linerless Closure

A closure, usually plastic, that is designed to seal with no liner.

Lithographing

A printing process used to decorate metal cans and caps. The printing is applied on flat sheet metal and involves employment of metal plates. The metal to be printed passes over the plate and the desired design is transferred to the sheet metal.

Lug Cover

A type of cover commonly used on open head 5 gallon steel pails. The pail cover is lined with a puff type compound which seats on the top rim of the pail. The seal is effected by compression of the cover to the pail. The seal is maintained by clinching the lugs, which are an integral part of the cover, to the pail rim.

Mil

Unit of measurement being .001 inch.

Mold Cavity

The hollowed-out portion of a set of molds that will be used in shaping a container as it is formed on a bottle machine.

Multi-Layer Bottles

Multi-layer bottles are composed of layers of selected plastic materials which are co-extruded to retain and utilize the unique characteristics of each material. The purpose is to improve the barrier qualities of the container which leads to a longer product shelf life.

Narrow Mouth (N/M)

The finish of a glass container that is small relative to the diameter of the body.

Natural Color

A term used to describe the natural material of a plastic container or closure which is translucent.

Neck Ring

The part of the mold equipment which forms the finish of a bottle.

Offset Printing

A printing technique in which ink is transferred from a reservoir to a printing plate; from the inked printing plate the image is printed on a cylindrical rubber roll (blanket) and then onto the object being printed.

Orifice

Generally, an opening in a dispensing closure or fitment from which the product is dispensed.

Paneling

Distortion (side wall collapse) of a container occurring during aging or storage, caused by the development of a reduced pressure inside the bottle.

Parting Line

Mark on a bottle where halves of the mold meet in closing.

Programming

A process for changing the size, weight or wall thickness of the parison mechanically during its formulation.

Sealing Surface

The lip portion or land area of the bottle finish that makes contact with the sealing gasket or liner and forms a seal.

Shelf Life

The period of time during which a product can be stored under specified temperature conditions and remain suitable for use.

Side Seam

The seam joining the two edges of a blank to form a body.

Sifter Fitment

A plastic component which is part of a package closure system that is deigned to allow the product to be dispensed by shaking.

Silk Screen Printing

This method, in its basic form, involves laying a pattern of an insoluble material in outline on a finely woven fabric, so that when ink is drawn across it, it is able to pass through the screen in the desired area only.

Sleeve Labels

Printed polyethylene slip-on labels that can be applied to a plastic container.

Surface Treating

Any method of treating a plastic so as to alter the surface and render it receptive to inks, lacquers and adhesives, such as chemical, flame or electronic treating.

Tolerance

A specified allowance for deviation from standard specifications or dimensions.

Torque

The amount of circular force applied to a closure to seal or open the container.

Wide Mouth (W/M)

Containers with large finish opening or those that have a large finish size in relation to capacity.

Window Stripe

A transparent vertical stripe on a molded opaque bottle.