

PLASTIC PROGRESS REPORT

2022

Plastic Progress Report – 2022



Global
Commitment

BAUM
UND
PFERDGARTEN

Our commitment

Since signing the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's global commitment for a New Plastic Economy in September 2019, we have been working towards our goal of eliminating all unnecessary packaging and single use plastic by 2025.

Although we cannot completely eliminate our plastic use at this point, the more we see our efforts to reduce our plastic consumption paying off, the more it inspires us to continue aggressively reducing plastic use. Last year, we made great progress toward our goals, effectively reducing our total plastic consumption by 35%. This year we have continued along the same trajectory, further reducing our plastic use and carrying on with our transition from the use of virgin to recycled plastic packaging.

With this report, we aim to: (1) share details related to the progress we have made during the past year, and (2) describe the steps we have taken to achieve our goals and the approaches we are looking to take in the future.



Revisiting our goals

We are committed to achieving the following:

1. Reducing our use of problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging by 50% by 2022, and eliminating it completely by 2024.
2. Replacing 50% of all single-use plastics with recycled or recyclable plastic by 2022, and then replacing 100% by 2024.
3. Ensuring 25% of our plastic packaging will be reusable, recyclable, or compostable by 2020, 50% by 2022, and 100% by 2025.
4. Sorting and recycling all plastic in our offices and stores.

2022 Total Plastic Consumption

During 2022 (July 1st 2021– June 30th 2022), our total plastic consumption was 4.68 tonnes (kilograms).

This amount equates to a 17% decrease of our total plastic use compared to 2021, but in reality, the overall reduction is actually higher. During the past two years, complications caused by the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a shortened reporting window in 2021. A more accurate ‘apples to apples’ comparison—in terms of time span—would therefore be to measure our 2022 plastic consumption against that of 2020 (rather than 2021).

When comparing data in this way, our total plastic consumption has been reduced by 56% from 2020 to 2022.

Reducing Our Plastic Consumption

The vast majority of plastic used in our production comes from the hangers and poly bags that we use when transporting our garments to and from our warehouse.

The main reason for our success in reducing our plastic consumption last year was our decision to deliver a large portion of our garments in flat-packages rather than on hangers. Now, instead of packing these garments on hangers covered by full length poly bags, we fold and pack garments without a hanger, so they can fit into much smaller poly bags.

Flat-packing our garments also allows us to eliminate the plastic bars placed into the boxes used for hanging deliveries, as well as the plastic lining used in containers for transport of hanging garments.

3 Focus Areas for Plastic Reduction

Reducing Plastic Hangers:

This past year, we completed the transition from delivering garments on hangers to delivering garments in flat packages. Today, we only deliver garments on hangers if the hanger is essential to maintaining a given garment's shape. The amount of garments delivered on hangers in 2022 was less than 2% of our total production.

Reducing Plastic Poly Bags:

We have also greatly reduced the size and weight of plastic poly bags used in our production. The average weight for one of our polybags is now less than 50% of what it was two years ago. So, even though our order quantities have increased during that time, our use of plastic has decreased significantly.

Increased Efficiency, Reduced Use of Plastic:

Along with our transition to flat-packing, we are continuously trying to reduce the size and weight of the plastic poly bags we use. By selecting the smallest available polybag and then folding new garments, our process is becoming both more efficient and less reliant on plastics.

Repacking of Goods

During 2022 (July 1st 2021– June 30th 2022), 27% of our total plastic was due to the continued use of poly bags and plastic hangers used to repack goods at our warehouse.

Repacking takes place because, for some of our bigger retail customers, attachment of those customers' own hang tags is required. This also requires delivery of products on hangers rather than in flat packs.

For the coming year, we will continue working to reduce the amount of goods having to be repacked at our warehouse. As we cannot yet eliminate or reduce the amount of plastic used for repacking, we have, for now, managed to substitute traditional plastic poly bags with a better option. As of 2022, all poly bags used for repacking are made from recycled plastic.

Recycled Poly Bags

During the last few years, we have been working to replace all single-use plastic packaging with recycled options. Our goal for 2022 was to replace at least 50% of all virgin plastics with recycled or recyclable plastic.

For our latest collection—the Pre-Autumn '22 Collection—approximately 80% of the plastic used for packaging was made with recycled plastics. From season to season, this percentage will fluctuate somewhat (depending on the order size we have with our different suppliers) but, despite this variation, we have far exceeded our goal for recycled plastic use in 2022. As we look ahead, we expect to meet our goal of eliminating the use of all virgin plastic packaging by 2024.

Note: Some of our suppliers still have pre-existing stock of conventional plastic poly bags that need to be used before they will transition to recycled bags. For other suppliers, finding suitable recycled plastic options locally is proving difficult. For these suppliers, we have to allow for a slow transition, but numbers are clearly showing us that we are making progress. In the coming years, we will continue to work closely with our suppliers in order to find better alternatives to the use of virgin plastics.

Focus Areas For 2023

1. Eliminate as much repacking as possible at our own warehouse.
2. Continue reducing the use of plastics at every level of our process and production, company wide.

Thank you!