

# **E-COMMERCE IS A GROWING ECONOMIC SEGMENT**



E-commerce experienced a 14.4% growth rate in 2018 in the U.S., and is expected to maintain annual growth rates of approximately **13% through 2023**<sup>1</sup>, and that was before the COVID-19 pandemic increased its demand.

In fact, over half (56%) of Americans say they have increased the frequency of their deliveries from online purchases since the beginning of COVID-19.<sup>2</sup>

As more products are shipped via e-commerce, brands continue to look for ways to...





**OPTIMIZE SHIPPING** 

**REDUCE COSTS** 



...all while offering consumers a positive experience.

## **RIGID VS FLEXIBLE PACKAGING**

56%



To achieve these goals, more brands and e-commerce providers are using flexible packaging as the primary package to withstand rough handling and limit leaks, while the e-commerce delivery pack also reduces the amount of packaging material and space utilized.



**DID YOU KNOW...**that products in an e-commerce environment are handled at least **3x more often** than in a traditional retail channel?

## **A LAYERED APPROACH**



#### **PRIMARY** PACKAGING

The package/material that makes immediate contact with the product inside.

#### **SECONDARY** PACKAGING

A carton in which the primary product is contained, sometimes used for e-commerce shipping.

## **TERTIARY** PACKAGING

An additional overbox/corrugated case that holds another corrugated case and is used as extra protection in e-commerce applications.

# **FLEXIBLE FORMATS = SHIPPING SAVINGS**

Packages are billed and charged by the greater of the following weights:

**DIMENSIONAL WEIGHT** L x W x H / Carrier Divisor



**ACTUAL WEIGHT** Based on actual product weight

Each format will be billed according to the dimensional weight with the flexible mailer achieving ~\$4 COST SAVINGS.

#### **CASE IN POINT**

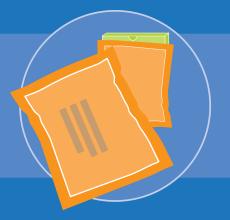
ITEM DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONAL WEIGHT (Ibs.)	ACTUAL WEIGHT (lbs.)	FLAT RATE (Carriers)	UPS (STD)
SHOE BOX WITH FLEXIBLE E-COMMERCE MAILER	$\left(\frac{15 \times 11 \times 6 \text{ inches}}{139}\right)$ 8 lbs.*	3 lbs.	\$19.95	\$14.70
SHOE BOX WITH E-COMMERCE OVERBOX	$\left(\frac{16 \times 13 \times 6 \text{ inches}}{139}\right)$ 9 lbs.*	3 lbs.	\$23.95	\$17.14



#### **PRO TIP:**

Target a weight closest to a whole number since fractional weights are rounded up.

# **FACT OR FICTION?**



## **FICTION:**

Flexible mailers can't be recycled.

Check out local store-drop-off programs and look for How2Recycle labels on packages.



## **FICTION:**

#### Recycling is the only sustainability factor that matters.

Water consumption, GHG emissions, fossil fuel, and source reduction are all important sustainability attributes, and flexible packaging gets exemplary marks for each.





## FACT:

#### Flexible packaging is an ideal solution for e-commerce applications.

Brand owners/retailers can achieve lightweight, durable, and cost-effective e-commerce shipping by choosing flexible packaging.



For more information, visit  $\underline{\textit{flexpack.org}}$  and download the "Sustainability Life Cycle and Economic Impacts of Flexible Packaging in E-commerce" report.

\*Using the 2019 carrier divisor: 139.

- <sup>1</sup> Lipsman, Andrew. <u>"US Ecommerce 2019."</u> EMarketer, 27 June 2019
- <sup>2</sup> G&S Reshaping the Future Report, January 2021