



**PP THERMOFORMING SHEET
EVEN THINNER –
FOR EVEN MORE SUSTAINABILITY**

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THE PP MONO SOLUTION – OF COURSE ALSO WITH BARRIER

We live in a throwaway society. How about fighting against food waste with improved food packaging? This is exactly what the established packaging manufacturer ETIMEX Primary Packaging addresses. They are further developing the thermoforming sheet – their proven successful product in a more sustainable guise.

The majority of food waste in Germany is generated in private households. Bought, lost from sight, expired, thrown away. In 2015, this amounted to 6.14 million tonnes or about 75 kg per capita. This means that private households accounted for a full 52 per cent of the total amount of food waste, as found in the study "Food Waste in Germany – Baseline 2015"* by the Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut in September 2019.

The way each individual handles food is crucial. Every person should shop with good sense and also use the purchased products appropriately. However, ETIMEX Primary Packaging GmbH also recognises the responsibility of the packaging industry to proactively address the issues of sustainability and food waste. Therefore, ETIMEX is committed to develop new products with a focus on sustainability or to optimise proven successful products – towards more environmental awareness.

100% recyclable thermoforming sheet – even thinner for more sustainability

The result is a future-oriented optimisation. In fact, PP thermoforming sheets are not a new product in the packaging industry. On the contrary, the fully recyclable material is an established part – a fully recyclable, sustainable product made of PP mono with which ETIMEX has built up expert status through decades of experience.

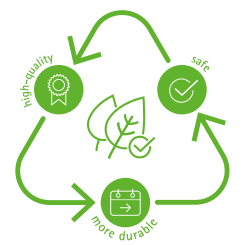
The innovation of the thermoforming sheet further developed by ETIMEX is as simple as it is ingenious: it is thinner.

While the product was previously limited to a material thickness of at least 400 µm, the thermoforming sheet can now be produced from a thickness of just 300 µm thanks to an optimised production process. Especially food manufacturers for convenience products such as Spaetzle, Maultaschen, pasta or sausages can benefit from this product development – both in terms of environmental sustainability and economic efficiency.

* Schmidt T, Schneider F, Leverenz D, Hafner G (2019) Lebensmittelabfälle in Deutschland – Baseline 2015 –. Braunschweig: Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, 79 p, Thünen Rep 71. Abgerufen 24. März 2021, von https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Ernaehrung/Lebensmittelverschwendung/TI-Studie2019_Lebensmittelabfaelle_Deutschland-Langfassung.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&t=3



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Reduced food waste thanks to optimised barrier properties

With the further development of the thermoforming sheet, ETIMEX was able to further improve the barrier properties with thinner material thickness, which results in a massively reduced oxygen permeability. A benefit for the end consumer: the extended shelf life allows food to be stored for longer, thus actively counteracting food waste.

But it is not only this aspect that makes the thermoforming sheet an interesting product for food manufacturers with high demands on environmentally-conscious actions. By saving up to 25% of the previous minimum thickness, the CO₂ emissions coming along with production are also reduced. At the same time, with the currently smallest possible material thickness, less packaging material has to be used and processed overall.

The thermoforming sheet is 100% recyclable polypropylene. For this reason, the product is already in high demand among food manufacturers. And retailers are also becoming more consistent with their requirements for environmentally-conscious products: the first major retail chains are already requiring suppliers to switch from composite films to fully recyclable product packaging. One important step.

Economic efficiency is always a priority in production

Sustainable solutions can be established on the market above all if they are also highly economical to use, i.e. if meeting KPIs comes within reach. Regarding the thermoforming sheet, one criterion is particularly decisive for economical production: outstanding thermoforming properties that go hand in hand with high productivity and efficiency. For the food manufacturer, this means an optimum end result from an economic point of view, as the film does not negatively affect performance in the packaging line, as is the case with films that are less easy to process.

When a new product solution not only meets higher sustainability standards but also makes economic sense, then the signs are good that it will be successfully established on the market. Because getting out of the throwaway society is the road we should best all take together – food manufacturers, packaging manufacturers, retailers and end consumers hand in hand. Step by step, a move towards less food waste.

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