

THE COOLER TRUTH

Using Styrofoam packaged sealant loses up to \$3,600 per truckload of material

There are certain crack sealant manufacturers that are choosing to utilize packaging for their material that resembles a Styrofoam cooler, as opposed to cardboard boxes. The advertised benefit is that the packaging melts into the hot pour material while you have to dispose of cardboard. But what is the real advantage?

The most notable difference when comparing the two is the premium price paid for the Styrofoam container, which in turn takes unnecessary money from budgets and minimizes road repairs. Both the cardboard and Styrofoam packaging options yield approximately 30 lbs. of crack sealant per container. The material in Styrofoam containers sells for an average of \$.08/lb. more than material in cardboard boxes. The justification for paying the premium is in labor savings and disposal fees. Let's do the math:

One 30lbs container X \$.08/lb = an extra \$2.40 per "cooler"

One truckload of material can weigh 45,000 lbs.

Divide that amount by 30 lbs per individual cooler to equal 1500 coolers per truckload.

1500 coolers X \$2.40 each = an additional \$3,600.00 per truckload of material

Even an employee making \$30.00 per hour could spend 120 hours or 3 weeks breaking down and disposing of boxes to equal the \$3,600.00 premium paid as a labor savings. Or view it from the perspective of that if crack sealant in a cardboard box costs \$.50/lb, then 7200 lbs. of sealant was taken away from your budgeted dollars which is enough to seal about 3 miles of roads.

And although the Styrofoam containers do melt, they also release additional fumes and toxins into the already polluted air. Cardboard is a recyclable option that keeps the air clean and saves our tax \$\$\$\$ by maximizing budgets.