

FIBER PACKAGING

Manville Corporation or related entities first began to sell asbestos fiber in 1916. From that time through the early 1920s, fiber was packed by hand in jute bags. From the 1920s to the 1950s, the fiber was fed into spouts which poured fiber into jute bags. Dimensions of some of the jute bags used were as follows:

20" x 36"
23" x 40"
30" x 40"
32" x 40"
25 1/2" x 42"

In addition to jute bags, the use of open mouthed, two or three ply kraft paper bags began in 1940. The standard dimensions of the open mouthed bags were 16 1/4" x 7 1/2".

Beginning in the late 1940s, Manville Corporation or related entities began to use valve paper bags in addition to the open mouthed bags. This multi-walled bag was constructed of a specified number of plies, then completely sealed except for a sleeved opening on one corner, through which the fiber was injected. Dimensions of the valve bags ranged from 15" x 6 3/4" to 25" x 7 1/4".

Manville Corporation or related entities first began to "pressure pack" fiber in the late 1940s. The pressure pack method allowed the fiber to be automatically weighed out, dropped into a chamber, and compressed into a block. By 1954, all fiber was pressure packed. Jute bags were no longer used after this date unless specifically requested by the customer.

Two standard bags were used in conjunction with the pressure pack method: 1) the open mouthed multi-walled kraft paper bag, described above; and 2) the woven polyethylene bag. Pressure packed woven polyethylene bags were constructed of woven polyethylene filaments, which gave the bag strength and durability. The bags were coated on the outside with a polyethylene film to make it impervious to dust and moisture. The bag was then passed through a bag sealer, which automatically applied glue to the flaps and creased the bag together. These woven polyethylene bags may have been "palletized" for shipment by stacking and gluing several bags together to form a stable load for mechanical handling.

The size of the mold and resulting package dimensions were related to the density of the fiber grade involved. Varied sizes of pressure packers were developed to accommodate ranges of fiber grades and included the following: