

The Universeal UK Guide to... Custom-printed Self-Adhesive Packaging Tape





Choosing the most suitable and cost-effective packaging tape solution for your carton sealing, identification or bundling application can be complicated in the face of the many options available. Our customised adhesive packaging tapes are highly configurable; this does mean however that it can be challenging to understand the most suitable base materials, adhesives, print finishes, roll sizes etc. for every need.

Carrier Materials and Adhesives Explained

All packaging tapes consist of at least two layers: firstly, the 'carrier' layer, which is the base material providing its strength, visual appearance and other characteristics; and the 'adhesive' layer, which sits underneath the carrier and provides the bond to the sealed surface. Each available carrier material can be paired with one or more adhesives to provide particular cost, performance or environmental characteristics which make them more suited to the application or end-user requirements. Below provides an overview of some of the more popular tapes we supply: -

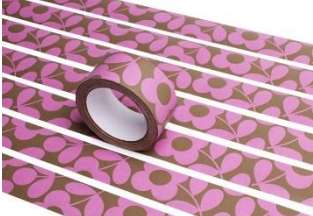

PVC and Polypropylene Tapes

Polypropylene and PVC carrier materials have become popular over the last two decades due to their consistent performance, strength and long-lasting adhesive qualities: -



 <p>Polypropylene Carrier / Acrylic Adhesive</p>	<p>The pairing tends to be the most cost-effective and performs well across many applications in a range of application temperatures (typically 0-65°C). This tape also performs well in humid conditions.</p> <p>Acrylic adhesive can however be noisy when being applied – particularly a consideration when applying tape over long periods! 'Low Noise' acrylic options are available to resolve this, although the electrostatic charge applied to make this low noise tape fails at around 6°C.</p>
<p>Polypropylene Carrier / Hot Melt Adhesive</p>	<p>PP tape with hot melt rubber adhesive is a versatile mid-range option, being slightly more expensive when compared to acrylic adhesive, but with better adhesion on more surfaces, and more resistant to stress. It is one of the most popular tapes supplied due to its flexibility in use, although temperature range is not as wide as with acrylic-based tapes.</p>
 <p>PVC Vinyl Carrier / Solvent Adhesive</p>	<p>Vinyl tape has a premium, high quality matt finish, and is hand-tearable, making it easy and flexible to apply, even without a hand dispenser. Vinyl is paired with a solvent adhesive, which provides the strong adhesion even without applying pressure during application. PVC tape can also deal with extreme temperature or high humidity better than other acrylic or hot melt tapes. Its comparatively higher cost makes vinyl tape most suitable for demanding environments as well as long-term storage applications.</p>

Environmentally Friendly Tapes

Paper based tapes are gaining increasingly popularity as the world looks to transition away from single-use plastics toward greener, more sustainable alternatives. It is particularly suited to ecommerce and fulfilment carton sealing, giving your brand a premium feel and eco-friendly credentials: -

<p>Water-activated “gummed” Paper / Starch Adhesive</p> 	<p>Gummed paper is the most environmentally friendly tape available, being fully biodegradable, recyclable and re-pulpable, and provides one of the strongest bonds available at all application temperature, suitable for many surface types. Gummed paper gives a premium feel to your carton branding, as well as being a green, plastic-free solution. Gummed paper tape is produced with a 100% natural starch adhesive, activated by contact with water (requires special dispenser or can be activated manually, e.g. using a wet sponge).</p>
<p>Self-adhesive Paper / Hot Melt Adhesive</p> 	<p>Self-adhesive paper tape is also a very environmentally friendly packaging solution. Self-adhesive paper tape has excellent adhesion, being available in either with hot melt or solvent adhesives depending on requirement. It is moisture resistant as well as being easy to apply; it can be torn by hand and can be used in traditional hand dispensers.</p>

Other Specialist Tapes

<p>Pipeline ID Tape / High Tack Solvent</p> 	<p>Pipeline identification tape is used in the aerospace, MOD, oil & gas, heating and ventilation sectors to provide operational notices, lockout / hazard warning information, as well as visual identification. Pipeline ID tape is robust and laminated for extended and durable performance in harsh environments. The high-performance solvent adhesive provides excellent adhesion, resistance to extreme temperature, chemicals, abrasion and moisture.</p>
<p>Food contact Tape / Solvent-Free</p> 	<p>This innovative food-contact tape is designed to enhance product presentation, whilst also reducing packaging: it is particularly suited for bundling of foodstuffs, reducing the need for polythene bags and thereby reducing amount of single-use plastic packaging in use. The tape is approved for direct contact with food, manufactured to BRC standards, and is produced using solvent-free adhesive.</p>

Design & Print Considerations

We turn your concepts into reality with a customised artwork design proof provided to you before production of your order, to ensure you are fully satisfied with your design. The Minimum Order Quantity (MOQ) for our tapes is 72 rolls, which is one carton.

Across most carriers, base material colours available are clear, white, buff (brown), or oyster (pale grey). We can directly over-print your designs on the base colour material, with up to 10 colours from our range of 28 pantone shades. Alternatively, we can ‘flood coat’ the base material to convert the base tape colour to any of the preferred pantones, with your design printed over the top with additional print colours.

Tape Configuration in Detail



Carrier Materials

Choose from 12 materials:



PVC Vinyl



Polypropylene



Adhesive Paper



Gummed Paper



Pipeline ID



Food-Contact



Cross-weave PP



Security



Removable



Masking



Pouch



Gaffa / Duct



Adhesive Types

Type	Adhesive Base	Silent Unwind	High-Tack	UV-resistant	Temp. Range	UV-resistant	Bio-degradable
Noisy Acrylic	Water			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0-65°C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Low Noise Acrylic	Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6-65°C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Hot Melt	Rubber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		0-40°C		
Solvent	Rubber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		-20°C to 50°C		
Freezer Grade	Rubber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		-7°C		
Starch Based	Vegetable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			-20°C to 50°C		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High Performance	Water		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		-40 to 150°C		



Tape Size

Standard widths from 9mm to 14mm.
Standard lengths from 66M to 1056M



Core Size

Four sizes available: 25mm, 38mm, 50mm or 76mm
(smaller cores enable rolls of tape to be longer)



Artwork Design

Take advantage of our free artwork design service for a fully bespoke artwork.
Alternatively choose from popular prints from our UK warehouse available immediately.



Base Colours

Type	Available base colours
PVC (Vinyl)	White, Buff, Clear
Polypropylene	White, Buff, Clear
Self-adhesive Paper	Buff, White
Water-activated Paper	Buff, White, Oyster
Pipeline Identification	White, Clear
Food-Contact	White, Buff, Clear
Cross-Weave PolyProp	Clear
Tamper-evident	Red, Blue
Removable	White, Buff, Clear
Masking (Paper)	White
Pouch Tape	Clear
Cloth (AKA duct, gaffa)	White

(Other colours of tape require a flood coat to achieve desired base colour)

Standard range of 28 colours (other pantone colours on request): -



Print Colours

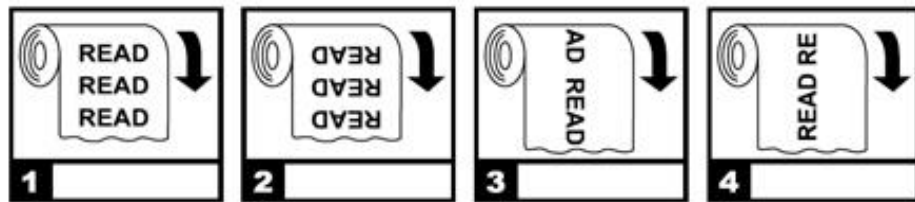


COLOURS ARE AN INDICATION ONLY

1-4 print colours available (standard 10-day lead time)
5-10 print colours available (standard 20-day lead time)



Orientation



Delivery Quantity

Deliveries from 72 rolls
(based on roll size: 48mm x 66m)



Annual Quantities

We can help with scheduled or call-off orders available to suit your needs, with large UK warehousing facilities.



Service Levels

Features of 10-Day Service


- Printed up to 4 colours
- MOQ 72 rolls (48mm x 66m)
- Max lead time 10 working days from approval of artwork
- 4 different core sizes, 76mm, 50mm, 38mm & 25mm
- Artwork within 24 hours
- Quicker Delivery

Features of 20-day Service


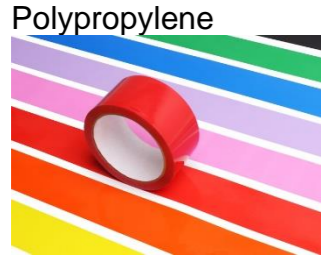


- Printed up to 10 colours
- MOQ 720 rolls (48mm x 66m)
- Max lead time 20 working days from approval of artwork
- 2 different core sizes: 76mm & 50mm
- Artwork within 24 hours
- Lower Cost

Guide to Customised Self-Adhesive Packaging Tape

Type	Characteristics	Applications	Carrier Thickness	Adhesive Types Available	Base Colour	Available Widths	Available Roll Lengths	10 Day Lead Time	20 Day Lead Time
 <p>PVC (Vinyl)</p>	Premium tape with matt finish, silent unwind, slow release. Hand tearable	Carton sealing	32-50mu	Solvent (standard, low tack or heavy-duty options)	White, Buff, Clear	12-144mm	Hand Rolls: 66-200m Machine Rolls: 330-1056m	Yes	No
 <p>Polypropylene</p>	Strong biaxial film, glossy finish. Requires dispenser or knife to cut. Excellent clarity	Semi and fully automatic carton sealing	19-50mu	Wide range: noisy acrylic, low-noise acrylic, hot melt, solvent	White, Buff, Clear	12-144mm	Hand Rolls: 66-200m Machine Rolls: 330-1056m	Yes	Yes
 <p>Self-adhesive Paper</p>	Environmentally-friendly, moisture resistant, excellent adhesion. Hand tearable.	Carton Sealing	110-125mu	Hot Melt, Solvent	Buff, White	12-144mm	Hand Rolls: 50m Machine Rolls: 500m	Yes	No
 <p>Water-activated Paper</p>	AKA Gummed Paper Tape. Most environmentally-friendly tape: biodegradable, recyclable and re-pulpable	Carton Sealing	70-125gsm	Starch based	Buff, White, Oyster	36-144mm	Machine Rolls: 100-300m	Yes	Yes
 <p>Pipeline Identification</p>	BS1710 and BS4800 standard tape. Excellent adhesion, resistance to extreme temperature, chemicals, abrasion and moisture. Can be supplied perforated	Pipeline identification in aerospace, MOD, oil & gas, heating and ventilation sectors	50-80mu	Solvent, High performance	White, Clear	12-150mm	Hand Rolls: 10-33m	Yes	No
 <p>Food-Contact</p>	Approved for direct food-contact, manufactured To BRC standards. Solvent free adhesive.	Suitable for bundling food products – reducing polythene bag use	40-50mu	Low Noise Acrylic, Hot Melt	White, Buff, Clear	12-144mm	Hand Rolls: 66-132m Machine Rolls: 330-990m	No	Yes

 <p>Cross-Weave PolyProp</p>	<p>Reinforced with biaxial fiberglass filaments. High tack adhesive</p>	<p>Heavy-duty packages and bundling of industrial goods</p>	<p>125mu</p>	<p>Hot Melt</p>	<p>Clear</p>	<p>18-144mm</p>	<p>Hand Rolls: 50-200m Machine Rolls: 300-400m</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
 <p>Tamper-evident</p>	<p>Leaves a highly-visible 'void message' on removal, providing visibility that carton has been opened.</p>	<p>Tamper-evident security sealing of cartons, boxes etc</p>	<p>35mu</p>	<p>Hot Melt</p>	<p>Red, Blue</p>	<p>36-96mm</p>	<p>Hand Rolls: 50m Machine Rolls: 330-660m</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>
 <p>Removable</p>	<p>Low tack, designed to be removed without leaving residue on surface. PVC or Polypropylene carrier options</p>	<p>Temporary surface protection, bundling of product</p>	<p>32-50mu</p>	<p>Noisy Acrylic, Solvent</p>	<p>White, Buff, Clear</p>	<p>12-144mm</p>	<p>Hand Rolls: 66-200m Machine Rolls: 330-1056m</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
 <p>Masking (Paper)</p>	<p>Can be used in temperatures up to 60 degrees Celsius. Easy to remove and can be torn by hand</p>	<p>General purpose masking tape</p>	<p>90gsm</p>	<p>Hot Melt</p>	<p>White</p>	<p>12-144mm</p>	<p>Hand Roll: 50-200m Machine Rolls: 300-500m</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
 <p>Pouch Tape</p>	<p>Tape with non-adhesive section (standard 120mm x 158mm) for placing advice notes. Good adhesion and clarity. Custom designs available on request</p>	<p>Alternative to document enclosed wallets</p>	<p>25-35mu</p>	<p>Noisy Acrylic, Hot Melt</p>	<p>Clear</p>	<p>48-144mm</p>	<p>Hand Rolls: 66-132m Machine Rolls: 330-990m</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
 <p>Cloth (AKA duct, gaffa)</p>	<p>Strong woven waterproof cloth, hand tearable</p>	<p>Suitable for heavy-duty applications</p>	<p>65mu</p>	<p>Hot Melt</p>	<p>White</p>	<p>24-144mm</p>	<p>Hand Rolls: 50m Machine Rolls: 100-150m</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Guide to Plain and Pre-Printed Packaging Tape

Type	Thickness	Adhesive Type	Base colour	Available Widths	Available Roll Lengths	Pre-Printed Options (15 designs available from stock)
 <p>PVC (Vinyl)</p>	32mu	Solvent	White, Buff, Clear	48mm	Hand Rolls: 66m	48mm x 66m Hand Rolls , printed red on white. Available in PVC with solvent adhesive, or polypropylene with low noise acrylic adhesive
 <p>Polypropylene</p>	25-28mu	Noisy Acrylic, Low Noise Acrylic, Hot Melt, Solvent, Freezer Grade	White, Buff, Clear, 10 Colours available	24-72mm	Hand Rolls: 66-132m Machine Rolls: 660-990m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAUTION ▪ CONTENTS CHECKED AND SECURITY SEALED ▪ DO NOT DROP ▪ FRAGILE ▪ FRAGILE DO NOT CRUSH ▪ GLASS HANDLE WITH CARE HANDLE WITH CARE ▪ PRIORITY KEEP REFRIGERATED ▪ QC HOLD ▪ QC INSPECTED ▪ QC REJECTED ▪ QUARANTINE ▪ SECURITY ▪ THIS WAY UP ▪ REJECT
 <p>Self-adhesive Paper</p>	95-110mu	Hot Melt, Solvent	White, Buff	12-144mm	Hand Rolls: 50-100m Machine Rolls: 200-500m	
 <p>Reinforced Self-Adhesive Paper</p>	125mu, with fibreglass reinforcements	Hot Melt (High-tack)	Buff	50-75mm	Hand Rolls: 25m Machine Rolls: 300m	Stocked Plain
 <p>Tamper-evident</p>	35mu	Hot Melt	Red, Blue	48mm	Hand Rolls: 50m	Stocked Plain
 <p>Cloth ('duct', 'gaffa')</p>	65mu	Hot Melt	Silver, Black	50mm	Hand Rolls: 50m	Stocked Plain