Bins and Containers

With all the styles, sizes, and options available for bins and containers, it can be a challenge to choose the right one for your application. This guide will help you through the process by providing you with the basic information to assist with selecting a container, including details on construction and other features.

Types of Materials

Polypropylene, Polystyrene and Polyethylene: The most common materials used for containers. The design of the container and the purpose of the container typically dictate which material that the manufacturer uses. Each are strong, lightweight, and resistant to mild chemicals.

Corrugated Plastic: Lightweight sheet plastic folded over a metal frame.

Polycarbonate: Clear, extremely durable material with high impact and temperature resistance.

Recycled Plastic: Nearly as strong as containers that are made from virgin materials, these may be made from post-industrial or post-consumer plastics. Ideal for customers who have "green" initiatives.

ESD: (Electrostatic Dissipative) Designed to protect sensitive parts from static charge, ESD containers are typically used in clean rooms and work-stations. Unlike "conductive" bins, which require the containers and racks to be grounded with a metal strap, dissipative materials do not need to be grounded. ESD containers are clean and retain their properties because the dissipative materials are permanently molded in. This is in contrast to conductive containers which lose their properties over time and if made with black carbon, may dirty their contents.

Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic: Plastic filled with Fiberglass material has high impact resistance, high weight capacity, suitable for use in high temperature applications.

Corrugated Cardboard: Economical 1 piece bins fold easily into shape. Shipped and stored flat in bundles.

Product Features

Hopper Front Container: This is the most common type of bin. A section of the front is open, so the user can easily reach in to pick parts. Typically used on shelving.

Uniform Height Container: All four walls on these bins are equal height; there is no hopper. User can fill these to near the top rim. Typically carried or transported.

Stacking: Bins may be placed on top of another to save space on the floor, pallet, or bench top. Some stacking bins require a lid to stack securely, while others do not. Some include a hopper front so parts can be retrieved while bins are stacked.

Nesting: When empty, each bin slides down inside the other to save space when not in use, or when in return transit.

Hanging: These bins have a "lip" on the back of the bin that allows the bin to hang from a rack or panel.

Accessories

Dividers and Cups: Dividers allow you to create customizable compartment sizes. Some bins divide front-to back, others divide side-to side, and some will do both. Cups lift out easily for parts retrieval.

Lids: Some lids are attached to the container to prevent loss; other lids are removable so they can be used when needed. Lids can provide security or dust protection.

Color: Can be used to color-code groups of items, thus improving productivity.

Labels: Use to organize and identify inventory. Labels can be adhesive-backed or removable card stock.

Information sources include Akro Mils, Quantum Storage, Edsal, and WW Grainger

If you are still having difficulty choosing Plastic Bins and Containers, please contact us at askzoro@zoro.com or 855-289-9676

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