



PALLET GUARDS

Are pallets used to store products on the sales floor? Recently, a jury in Alabama awarded a Walmart shopper \$7.5 million when he fractured his hip after he got his foot caught in a wooden pallet reaching for a watermelon. The jury awarded \$2.5 million in compensatory damages and \$5 million in punitive damages. The lawsuit alleged the retailer should have known the pallet was likely to cause an injury and failed to exercise reasonable care, and the jury agreed. While displaying produce or product on a wooden pallet is a convenient way to display merchandise in your store, it can cause a tripping hazard for customers and employees.

Pallet Guards

Risk Engineering



Pallet guards shown in a continuous run around pallet to reduce trip and falls



Unprotected pallets pose a tripping hazard

What is a pallet guard?

A pallet guard is an adjustable plastic border that surrounds all sides of the pallet and easily snaps or slides together. The guards can be anywhere from 6-12" tall, and range in many colors and designs. Several pallet guards can typically be linked together to form a continuous barrier around several pallets placed side by side.

Reasons to use pallet guards

- Reduce tripping on the corner of a pallet (especially when the product is in an octagonal shaped box)
- Prevent pieces of wood from the pallet to splinter off and cause a slip and fall accident or cut a customers foot
- Preventing a customer from catching their foot in the pallet when reaching for a product then moving away from the pallet.
- Reduce bumping a cart into the pallet that may cause the cart to jar the customer or over-turn the cart.
- Reduce tripping over a pallet where the merchandise may be picked over causing a low lying hazard
- Protection of merchandise – Merchandise or boxes holding merchandise can get damaged from people and carts.

Pallet guards not only help to protect customers and employees, but can also unify your store design by having a more finished look or color coordinated display.

This material is provided for information purposes only and is not intended to be a representation of coverage that may exist in any particular situation under a policy issued by one of the companies within Crum & Forster. All conditions of coverage, terms, and limitations are defined and provided for in the policy. This material was developed as a general guide to safety from sources believed to be reliable and is not intended to provide legal, technical or other professional advice. These materials are not intended to replace any training or education that users may wish or need to provide to their personnel. Crum & Forster does not endorse any of the vendors listed in this publication, nor does it endorse the information, products or services that they offer or provide. Compliance with all Federal, State or local laws and regulations remain the policyholder's responsibility.



The C&F logo, C&F and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company.

Version 2.0 2019.06.03