

## About Pallets.

Simple information extracted from Wikipedia.

### Size.

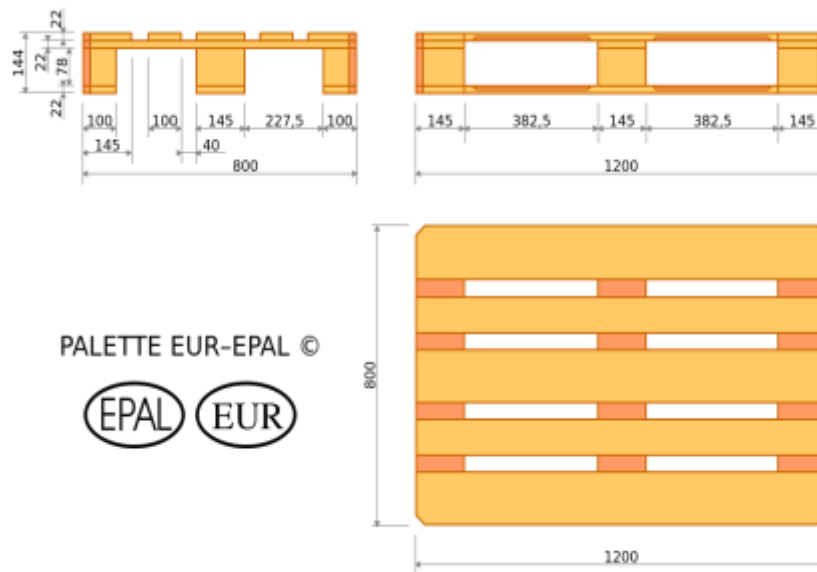
There is no single standard size.

There are:

12 North American sizes.

6 European sizes.

An Australian standard – usually only used in Australia.



### A Euro Pallet

(By WhiteTimberwolf Pi156: GIF version: - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10343729>)

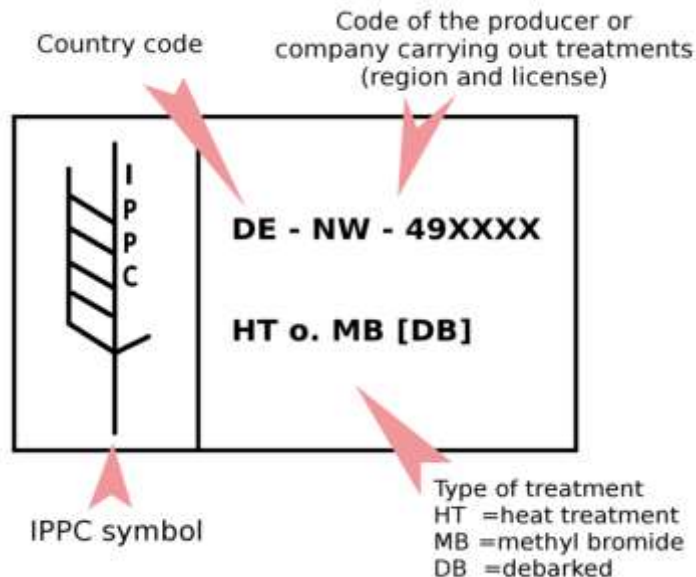
### Phytosanitary compliance

Due to the International Plant Protection Convention (abbreviated IPPC), most pallets shipped across national borders must be made of materials that are incapable of being a carrier of invasive species of insects and plant diseases. The standards for these pallets are specified in ISPM 15.

Pallets made of raw, untreated wood are not compliant with ISPM 15. To be compliant the pallets (or other wood packaging material) must meet debarked standards, and must be treated by either of the following means under the supervision of an approved agency:

- Heat treatment The wood must be heated to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56°C (132.8°F) for at least 30 minutes. Pallets treated via this method bear the initials **HT** near the IPPC logo.
- Chemical fumigation The wood must be fumigated with methyl bromide. Pallets treated via this method bear the initials **MB** near the IPPC logo. From 19 March 2010 the use of Methyl Bromide as an acceptable treatment according to ISPM15 has now been banned within all EU member states. This is due to causing potential harm to the Earth's stratospheric ozone layer.

Treated wood pallets must be stamped on two opposite sides indicating either HT for heat treated or MB for methyl bromide treatment.



### IPPC marks on a pallet.

(By Penyulap - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24532067>)

### Pallet construction.

Although pallets come in all manner of sizes and configurations, all pallets fall into two very broad categories: "stringer" pallets and "block" pallets.

#### Stringer pallet

Stringer pallets use a frame of three or more parallel pieces of timber (called stringers). The top deckboards are then affixed to the stringers to create the pallet structure. Stringer pallets can have a notch cut into them allowing "four-way" entry. Forklifts can lift a stringer pallet from all four directions, though lifting by the stringers is more secure.

#### Block pallet

Block pallets are typically stronger than stringer pallets. Block pallets utilize both parallel and perpendicular stringers to better facilitate efficient handling. A block pallet is also known as a "four-way" pallet, since a pallet-jack may be used from any side to move it.

Discarded wooden pallets should not be used for firewood or crafts unless it has been determined that the wood in these pallets has not been treated with wood preservatives, fungicides and/or pesticides. Various pyrethrins and propiconazole are common treatments for wooden pallets. In addition, imported palletized goods are routinely fumigated with highly toxic pesticides. During use, harmful materials or chemicals also may spill on the pallet wood and be absorbed.

Items made from pallet wood are likely to be durable and demonstrate good weather resistance due to these treatments. However, close contact with pallet wood or inhalation of dusts from sanding or sawing can be a source of exposure to pesticide and fungicide chemicals.