

Reference case

Ford Motor Company of Canada

Reduction in return freight costs with Nefab RePak

The Customer Case

Ford Motor Company of Canada is the longest-running automobile maker in the country. They manufacture cars and trucks, as well as hybrid and electric vehicles at six assembly and manufacturing plants.

Prior to seeking Nefab's expertise, Ford Motor Company of Canada was finding that return freight costs from the regional parts distribution centers throughout Canada were increasing. Ford, who ships most of their replacement parts in Canada from their national distribution centre in Ontario to regional centers in Montreal, Vancouver and Edmonton, was using non-collapsible steel cages (85" X 44" X 47"); common within the automotive industry.

The NEFAB Solution

The General Supervisor for the Bramalea facility realised that return freight costs could be significantly decreased if Ford could find a collapsible, returnable system that matched their size requirements. Already familiar with the NEFAB RePak system in other applications, he asked Nefab to design a container suiting his requirements.

Nefab's in-house product engineering team thoroughly reviewed Ford's current shipping systems. The solution Nefab proposed was a NEFAB RePak T that features a drop-down gate at the front for ease of loading. The advantages of the NEFAB RePak T are that it is incredibly strong, easy to assemble and fold, and has excellent stacking capability. It also has a long lifespan and can be returned as one collapsed unit, which is important to Ford in trying to reduce return freight costs.

The Benefits for Ford

- By collapsing to 1/5 its erect size, Ford now returns 92 NEFAB RePak T per truck as opposed to 22 non-collapsible containers
- Very short payback period (less than 4 months)
- The ease of assembly minimizes handling (assembled in less than one minute by only one operator)
- Positive feedback from customers regarding the quality image being portrayed



Ford also saves space thanks to the RePak T's 1:5 collapsibility ratio



The crate's strength allows Ford to easily stack 1+2 in its warehouse