



Schoeller Allibert

CASE STUDY: LaColombe Converts Cardboard IBCs to Schoeller Allibert's Combo Excelsior® Hybrid with Partner Black Forest Containers and Achieves 100% ROI in First Year

Background & Challenge

LaColombe was using single-use cardboard intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) to transport product to bottling facilities. These IBCs required assembly prior to fill, disassembly after use, storage of pallets required to transport the containers, and disposal. The company was seeking a way to reduce \$250,000 it spent each month purchasing new disposable IBCs as well as the labor cost and safety risk of employees who had to assemble and disassemble the corrugated IBCs. La Colombe also wished to reduce the cardboard being sent to landfill after just a single use, and better utilize the space being used to store pallets for the IBCs.

Solution & Results

In cooperation with Black Forest, LaColombe converted cardboard IBCs to Schoeller Allibert's Combo Excelsior Hybrid 265-gallon plastic IBC. After use, Black Forest retrieves empty IBCs and returns them to the LaColombe facility for reuse. The Excelsior container can be erected in just seven seconds with only one team member instead of 10 minutes and two team members. After the container is emptied, the sidewalls can be folded flat in seven seconds by a single team member, vs. several minutes, two team members, and dangerous cutting tools with the cardboard IBC. These time savings have reduced labor costs by up to 15% and improved worker safety as well. Given the Excelsior's optimal folding ratio (1/4th of its erected height) LaColombe can stack 14 folded containers per pallet position in the warehouse – a huge efficiency in limited warehouse and return trailer space.

The replacement of single-use corrugated packaging with the reusable plastic IBC will result in an annual cost savings of \$208,000 in the first year and an estimated \$3 million+ over the Excelsior's expected 15-year life span. La Colombe now eliminates thousands of corrugated containers in landfills each year, and the raw material and energy needed to produce new cardboard.



Market(s): Beverage

Solution: Conversion from single-use corrugated cardboard IBCs to Combo Excelsior Hybrid IBC.

Key Outcomes:

- Est. \$3 million + savings over 15 years
- 100% ROI in first year of program
- 15% reduction in labor costs
- Improved worker safety and productivity

