



## Ropack Stickpack Packaging

Stickpack packaging in single-dose is globally accepted for its accuracy, convenience and cost-savings. These slim, sealed, tube-shaped packets – approximately the size of a stick of gum – are a preferred packaging design among European and Japanese consumers for the convenience, flexibility and portability their active lives demand. Now stickpack packaging is being introduced in North America and opening up a significant new packaging option.

Stickpack packaging's unique design offers a variety of benefits, particularly for the pharmaceutical and consumer health-care industries as well as for busy, multi-tasking consumers, such as:

- Convenience of single-dose dispensing
- Portability for on-the-go use – office, school and travel
- High degree of fill accuracy
- Fill weight range: 0.2g to 4g – subject to actual product properties, density and flow characteristics (results dependent on actual fill trials)
- Ease of opening and dispensing
- Ideal sample option
- Product differentiation
- Content preservation, with a shelf life up to 24 months
- Reduction in paper and foil usage – an eco-responsible benefit
- High-quality film available, from 7 micron to 12 micron foil barrier, provides zero MVTR and OTR
- Flexibility of pack-out configuration
- Marketing surface on individual stick packs ideal for messaging and instructions

Manufacturing of stickpacks requires rigid parameters such as dedicated manufacturing suites with low relative humidity, controlled residual oxygen and a temperature-controlled environment. Ideally, equipment should be able to:

- Handle initial R&D
- Manage stability programs
- Create sales and marketing samples
- Perform scale-up
- Manufacture commercial production

The stability equipment platform should be identical to the commercial equipment, with the stability version in a smaller configuration than the commercial version. The technology should be efficient and cost-effective. It is recommended that the state-of-the-art primary and secondary packaging equipment design should deliver high speed and accurate fill weight performance up to 1,000 sticks packaged per minute; yet for smaller volume production, a one-lane platform could output 100 sticks per minute.

Because of the slim, compact size of stickpack, cartoning is efficient and economical, a feature that benefits both the pharmaceutical and consumer health-care companies as well as the eco-responsible consumer. When the secondary packaging can be sorted in one or two layers – or unsorted – the finished goods presentation is versatile, efficient and attractive as well as compact.

By selecting the contract packaging and manufacturing services firm that understands the unique requirements of stickpack packaging, pharmaceutical and consumer health-care companies can provide the convenient and flexible option that consumers want.