Can Liner Information

We stock a full line of both High and Low Density Can Liners. All of our Liners have a high quality star seal.

Definitions

It's important to know a little bit about what can liners are actually made of, and how thicknesses are measured. That determine which of the polyethylene resins and liner gauges will work best for your particular application.

Resin – The basic raw material from which can liners are made. There are 3 types of resins: Low Density, Linear Low Density, and High Density Polyethylene.

Linear Low Density Polyethylene – The resin is highly puncture and tear resistant. These properties make this the best choice for applications where additional strength and stretch are required. Works well for waste with sharp or jagged edges.

High Density Polyethylene – Liners made from this resin are generally available in lower gauges, and are most temperature resistant.

Low Density Polyethylene – An older resin still used mainly in lower and utility liners. It has largely been replaced by Linear Low Density Polyethylene. Professional Supply does not use this resin in any of our can liners.

Post (Consumer and Post-Industrial Polyethylene) – This is made from recycled post-consumer plastics such as milk jugs and industrial scraps.

Gauge – A term used to describe the thickness of a linear. Low density liners are measured in mils, while High density liners are generally measured in microns.

Mil – Measurement based on one hundred thousandths of an inch (.001). For example, a .55 mil bag would be 55 thousandths of an inch thick. Common low density liners range from .37 to 1.8 mil in thickness.

Micron – Based on thousandths of a Millimeter (.000001). High Density liners usually range from 6 to 22 microns in thickness.

Why Gauge Isn't Always Important

Film thickness is no longer the only standard for judging overall bag strength. The development of advanced resins and additives has changed the standard method for selecting the correct can liner. These developments have allowed manufacturers to produce thinner, lighter trash bags that are stronger and more durable than thicker bags made from lesser quality raw materials.

Linear Low Density Can Liners Mil Thickness Range	
Light	.30 to .49 Mil
Medium	.50 to .60 Mil
Heavy	.61 to .74 Mil
Extra Heavy	.75 to .80 Mil
Super Tuf	.81 to 1.0 Mil
Extra Extra Heavy (XXH)	1.3 to 1.9 Mil
Extra Extra Extra Heavy (XXXH)	2.0 to 3.0 Mil

High Density Can Liners Mic Thickness Range	
Light	6 to 9 Mic
Medium	10 to 12 Mic
Heavy	13 to 14 Mic
Extra Heavy	15 to 17 Mic

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Bottom Seals

Star Seal
The star seal is the most common type of seal in the market. Designed without gussets, the star seal eliminates gaps along the seal where leaks can occur. This allows the bag to more easily conform to the shape of the container and distributes weight evenly inside the bag. Star seal liners maximize the bag's carrying capacity and virtually eliminate leaks. Star seal liners are designated by two dimensions, e.g., 40 x 46.

Gusset
A flat style bag manufactured with both sides tucked in to form gussets. Where indented, the bag is sealed through four layers of film while in the middle of the bag has only two. Gusseted seal liners are designated by three dimensions, e.g., 23 x 17 x 46.

Flat
A flat seal is a two-dimensional bag with a bottom seal, much like a pillow case. Flat seals are generally leakproof but are clumsy to handle. Also, they do not conform well to the shape of most trash receptacles. Flat seal liners are designated by two dimensions, e.g., 40 x 46.

Should I Use Low Or High Density?

Linear Low Density Can Liners (LLDPE)

- Superior tear resistance compared to HD liners
- Multipurpose applications
- Most prevalent type of film used in the industry
- Manufactured in a wide variety of colors
- Compared to traditional low density film, linear low density can be run at a lighter gauge with equal or greater strength

Recommended for rough objects under tough transport conditions.
Example: These liners are very strong and are more resistant to tearing, but handle lower load capacities than Hi-D liners.

Suggested LLD applications:
- Sticks & rough yard trimmings
- Metal w/ sharp edges
- Nails & Bolts
- Objects w/ rough corners or protrusions
- Small rocks
- Plastic eating utensils
- Abusive transport conditions
- Food w/ rough eadges (ex: crab legs)
- Glass bottles

High Density Can Liners (HDPE)

- HMW-HD liners are more puncture resistant than LLD liners of the same thickness
- HMW-HD liners are made much thinner than LLD liners but can hold the same or greater weight
- Substantial cost savings on a per-liner basis
- Heritage natural and white-pigmented bags are made from FDA-approved raw materials

Great for paper and non-rough objects under moderate transport conditions.
Example: These liners are very strong and handle higher load capacities than LLD liners, but are less resistant to tears once punctured.

Suggested Hi-D applications:
- Cans w/out rough edges
- Paper
- Paper plates/cups
- Food
- Dirt
- Grass
- Rags/Cloth items
- Smooth heavy object
- Great for office waste baskets

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