Absorpole Frequently Asked Questions

New questions and comments are welcome. All questions will receive a reply.

Q: How do Absorpoles help to solve moisture problems?

Absorpole and Absorbag contain calcium chloride that very agressively grabs and absorbs moisture from the air. They dry the air. When the air is dry, there are no moisture problems.

Q: Can Absorpole and Absorbag solve all moisture problems?

Well, not all. Some cargoes may be so wet that any reasonable number of absorbers get overwhelmed. But Absorpole and Absorbag can reliably protect even very difficult cargoes that may contain tons of moisture, such as coffee beans, wood products or paper.

Q: I load my container under dry conditions and it is very tightly sealed. How come I still experience moisture problems?

Your cargo or the packaging, including container floors, pallets and crates contain moisture that is evaporated into the air during transport. Wet packaging material is the most common cause of unexpected moisture problems.

Q: I have shipped the same cargo for years with Absorpole or Absorbag without any trouble, but now I have a lot of damage. Have you changed the product?

Check your container and your packaging material. Did you just start to store your pallets outdoors? Does your forklift drive into the container with snow on the tires? Did you just change supplier of crates? You can't tell by looking whether the wood or the cartons are dry. The moisture properties of wood and cartons have an exponential character. It makes a huge difference if your pallet's moisture content is, say, 20% instead of 17%.

Q: I ship consumer goods in tubes/cans/jars etc. that contain no moisture, yet I still have problems.



Consumer goods are often shipped with a lot of cardboard packaging. Even if the boxes seem dry they could literally hold tons of water.

Q: I ship containers of peanuts, coffee and cocoa that contain tons of moisture. What difference does it make that Absorpole or Absorbag absorb a few litres during a voyage?

All the important things that happen have an exponential character. That means a small change in circumstances can have a huge effect on the outcome. It is a question of "leverage". Our absorbers create circumstances that allow almost all of the moisture to remain in the cargo. Absorbag and Absorpole lower the humidity in the air by a crucial amount sufficient to prevent damage.

Q: Does it make a lot of difference that my cocoa beans have a moisture content of 8% instead of 7%?

Yes, such a difference could be all the difference between no damage and disaster. The moisture behavior of most agricultural products has a strong exponential character. You can dramatically reduce the risk of disaster by using Absorbag or Absorpole.

Q: My cargo of peanuts suffered damage in the center even though the outside of the cargo looked fine and there were no signs of condensation?

Lots, if not most, damage to cargo is caused by prolonged periods of elevated humidity without any condensation (container rain, cargo sweat, super saturation event). It is common that cargo loaded at cool temperature and then moved into warmer climates suffer damage in the centre of the cargo as a result of a difference in temperature between the outside and the centre of the cargo. Warm air from the outside of the cargo becomes humid as it moves into the cooler centre. Absorpoles and Absorbags protect against "center damage" even though the poles are mounted on the container walls.

Q: I had damage to my cargo even though I used lots of silica gel and there were no visible signs of condensation. Would it help to switch to Absorpole or Absorbag?

Yes, since Absorbag and Absorpole use only calcium chloride which absorbs moisture even when the humidity is low. This gives wider safety margins to protect cargo during prolonged periods AND peak periods of high humidity. Most other products are only effective during periods of high humidity. Even worse, silica gel saturates very quickly and is ineffective after only a few days. Absorbag and Absorpole are designed to last the entire journey while absorbing moisture under a broader range of condiditions.



Q: What is so great about Absorpole and Absorbag anyway?

Well, if installed properly for the correct application they will not fall off the wall, get punctured during loading and unloading, leave a wet puddle on the cargo or run out after half the voyage. They can be installed in seconds and take up no cargo space. The absorption capacity of each pole is big, so fewer are required. The cost of an installation is very competitive, even against much inferior alternatives.

Q: How many units do I need?

The number of Absorpoles or Absorbags required to protect against moisture damage depends on the type of cargo, the temperature conditions during the voyage, the length of the voyage the size of the container and how safe you want to be. For some really dry cargoes such as steel coils and household appliances 2-3 absorbers are enough. For a lot of "normal" goods 4-6 is about right. Some cargoes with very difficult moisture properties on long voyages may reguire up to 16 absorbers as is the case with sisal fiber bales.

Q: Do I need to line my container with kraft paper or corrugated sheets?

Lots of containers are lined with kraft paper primarily for reasons of hygiene or to simply isolate the cargo from direct contact with the container walls. The liner will act as a kind of sponge, catching and absorbing any droplets of water and then re-evaporating the moisture into the air. If liner is used without Absorpoles or Absorbags it could contribute to a "negative pumping effect", drawing moisture out of the cargo. When used together with the absorbers the liner will act as a buffer in extreme conditions, and will prevent any container rain from reaching the cargo. Much the same can be said for the so called dew cloths.

Q: My container is absolutely filled with cargo. Will the absorbers still work?

Moisture diffuses (spreads) very effectively, even through a seemingly compact cargo. Experience shows that Absorpole and Absorbag will make a difference even to mold growth inside cartons of cargo. It is, however, necessary that some free space is left in front of the grille of each absorber. If some Absorpoles have collected less water than others inside a container, it is a result of less air access to those absorbers.



Q: I have problems with mold growth inside my stretch wrapped pallets. Will your absorbers help?

Yes, so long as there is some access of air through the top and bottom of the pallets. A spiked roller may be used to create holes in the stretch wrap.

Q: My shipments of steel/galvanized components/aluminum/ machinery etc. arrive corroded, stained or miscolored despite heavy packaging. Will Absorpoles or Absorbags help?

Yes, your container can be equipped with a sufficient number of absorbers to protect against corrosion and staining at less cost than your current packaging. You can eliminate or reduce the quantity of VCI paper, plastic wraps or tectyl coating which saves you and your customers money.

Q: I got some brine on my hands while removing used absorbers . Is it dangerous?

No it is not. Calcium chloride is non-toxic and environmentally safe. It is the second biggest constituent of sea-salt and is liberally sprinkeled over icy roads in cold climates. The brine is somewhat similar to very salty seawater, and may cause irritation and rashes if left to dry on the skin. We recommend that you wear gloves and goggles when handling used poles, but should you get splashed by brine just wash off immediately with lots of fresh water.

Q: Can I recycle my used absorbers?

Yes, the Absorbags and Absorpoles are made of PP/PE plastic, similar to what is used to make drink bottles, and are readily recyclable. We recommend you check with local authorities at the discharge location to determine optimum recycling procedures. Any residual calcium chloride crystals are easily removed by soaking the poles in fresh water.

