



## Pressure Sensitive Tapes



St. Louis Paper proudly represents all the major tape manufacturers. As a result, if you can conceive of an application we can probably provide the proper tape. We have tried to list the different types of tapes as well as some typical applications, but the list can never include every tape or use. We stock a wide variety of popular tapes in many different sizes and our inventory is continually expanding. Please contact us for help in determining the best tape for your needs.

**Paper masking tapes** are available for commodity, general purpose and special purpose uses. Most masking tapes are crepe paper that stretches a little to conform to surfaces with bends and irregularities. Flatback (non-crepe) tapes are available where low elongation is desired. Masking tapes are usually off-white or cream colored, but various colors are available in some grades. Certain grades of both crepe and flatback tapes may be printed.

**Strapping tapes** may be either filament reinforced or tensilized polypropylene (TPP), with filament being the most common. TPP is most suitable for bundling and pallet stabilization, where moderate tensile and adhesion are advantageous. Filament strapping tapes are usually polypropylene films with fiberglass reinforcing strands. Because of the fiberglass strands, filament tapes have almost no elongation or stretch and can have tensile strengths of over 300# per inch of width. Filament tapes are used for closing and reinforcing, L-clip sealing, bundling, and palletization. For certain specialty applications, bi-directional and paper backed tapes are available.

**Carton sealing tapes** are generally film tapes with one of three different types of adhesive coatings. Hot melt adhesive coatings are generally the least expensive and are suitable for most applications. They are most effective when applied between 45° F and 100° F. Acrylic adhesive backed tapes are better for more extreme temperatures, from 32° F to 140° F, or where long term high clarity is important. In addition to working in at temperatures from 0° F to about 150° F, natural rubber adhesive systems have aggressive quick tack and outstanding shear strength, making them suitable for difficult carton sealing applications. Each of the three adhesive systems is available in a variety of tensile strengths. Clear tape is the most widely used, but tan is also available in all grades.

The most common **cloth tapes** are **duct tapes**. Duct tapes are cloth tapes with a polyethylene coating and a very aggressive adhesive system. Many different grades are available in both the standard silver and in various colors. Originally used for sealing ductwork in heating/cooling/ventilation systems, the uses of duct tape are now almost limitless.

**Double coated tapes** are just what the name implies, a substrate of some type with adhesive on both sides. Adhesives can be almost as permanent as a weld or as removable as a sticky note. The carrier can be as thin as tissue paper or can be foam that is 1/2" or more thick. There are literally thousands of adhesive and carrier combinations available to solve specific problems.

In addition to the above more common types of tapes, we also have vinyl tapes for aisle marking and various identification uses, Teflon coated fiberglass for packaging machinery, metal foil tapes for electronics and decorative uses, and a host of other specialty tapes for general or specific uses.