IBC Tote Baskets for Kiln Drying Firewood

A low-cost handling and drying system for the Global Container Kiln

Overview

An IBC (intermediate bulk container) tote is the familiar 275 to 330 gallon liquid container: a plastic bottle held inside a galvanized steel wire cage on a pallet base. With the bottle removed, the cage becomes an open, rigid wire basket of roughly 48 x 40 x 46 inches (1200 x 1000 x 1160 mm) that holds about a third of a cord of split firewood. The open mesh lets heated air pass through the wood from every side, making the baskets well suited to kiln drying.

Low Cost of Surplus and Used Baskets

IBC totes are produced in huge numbers for the food, chemical and industrial markets, and many are retired after limited use. Used and surplus units are widely available from recyclers, farms and manufacturing plants, often for a small fraction of the cost of a purpose-built firewood crate. Cages from units with damaged bottles are frequently the cheapest of all, since only the steel frame is needed. When buying, choose totes that held food-grade or non-hazardous contents, and check the cage for broken welds and the base for sound condition.

Built-In Forklift Slots for Easy Handling

Every IBC sits on an integrated pallet base (steel, plastic or wood) with four-way forklift and pallet-jack entry. A full basket of firewood can be lifted, moved into the kiln, pulled out after drying, and loaded onto a truck or trailer without ever re-handling individual splits. The same basket serves as the splitting bin, drying rack, storage unit and delivery container, cutting labor at every step.

Random Stacking at the End of an Automatic Splitter Conveyor

Placed at the discharge end of an automatic wood splitter or firewood processor conveyor, an IBC basket simply catches the falling splits. No hand stacking is needed: the random pile of splits naturally leaves air gaps that help kiln airflow. When one basket is full, a forklift swaps it for an empty one and the processor keeps running. Full baskets go straight into the container kiln, where the mesh sides expose the wood to circulating heated air for fast, even drying.

Summary

Surplus IBC tote baskets offer an inexpensive, durable and standardized way to collect, dry and deliver firewood. Their low cost, forklift-ready bases and open mesh walls make them a natural match for automated splitting lines and container kiln drying.

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