

Keeping our canned food safe

Steels for packaging keep food nutritious and tasty for longer



Every part of a metal can is recycled, making steel the most recycled packaging material in Europe.

In 2014, European consumers purchased more than 68 billion metal packages containing everything from food to health and beauty products. This figure is expected to increase by five billion units by 2018. One of the most popular segments is processed food where steel is the leading material, accounting for 70% of all packaging containing fruit and vegetables, fish and seafood, and pet food. There are good reasons why consumers are making this choice – steel simply protects food better than other materials. It's also very cost-effective for food producers, and 100% recyclable.

Research carried out in 2015 by the SGS Fresenius Institute (Germany) has shown that the vitamin and mineral content of canned vegetables are just as high as that of freshly cooked vegetables. The study also showed that steel cans help to retain product freshness and flavour for up to three years, and without the need for added preservatives or refrigeration.

Complete offer for food packaging

ArcelorMittal Europe – Flat Products has a complete range of steels for food packaging. Our offer includes **Creasteel®**, a new line used to create eye-catching drawn cans. We also offer **Maleis®**, a state-of-the-art steel specifically designed for use with easy-open ends. The higher strength and elongation of Maleis® improves the consumer's experience.

By working closely with can makers, ArcelorMittal is able to answer their demands for lightweight steel cans which are affordable to produce. Steel food cans are now 46% lighter than they were 30 years ago.

We also help can producers to make life easier for consumers by improving packaging convenience with solutions such as easy-open ends and microwavable containers which go directly from oven to table.

ArcelorMittal's footprint closely matches that of our customers, ensuring high reactivity and logistics efficiency.

Protecting today, preserving tomorrow

Steel offers a perfect solution to food waste and food security. Fruit and vegetables are typically canned within three hours of being harvested, limiting spoilage. Once canned, the contents are protected against light, air, and liquids by the steel. This protects the nutritional value of the contents and prolongs shelf life. Steel packaging is also impact- and puncture-resistant in the supply chain and single portion dispensing options are widely used. This reduces product loss and consumer waste even further.

Steel is also the easiest packaging material to recycle, and the most recycled packaging material in Europe. As a permanent material, steel can be recycled over and over again without losing any of its properties. That makes steel packaging an ideal solution for a circular economy.



Steel preserves the nutritional value of canned food.



Easy-open ends have simplified life for the consumer.

More info:

Visit our dedicated steels for packaging website for more information about our offer. You can also find out more about packaging and steel's important role in preservation through the videos in the Multimedia section:

packaging.arcelormittal.com