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## Packaging for Post War Foods

Virginia Carter  
*Iowa State College*

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# Packaging For Post War Foods

*A variety of new packaging developments awaits the post-war homemaker, says Virginia Carter*

**F**OOD on the shelves of post war stores will be attractively packaged in new and improved materials now being used by our armed forces. The outlook indicates that the packages will be lighter, more durable and colorful.

Heading the parade of packaging materials will be the familiar glass containers which have been simplified to standard shapes and sizes. Because of wartime conditions, odd shapes are prohibited by restrictions to facilitate production and reduce costs in handling and processing. The simplified trend of production may remain after the war and promote uniform packages within industries using glass for food containers.

Tin cans will remain on the packers' list of containers but these too will take on new forms. The can will go through an electrolytic process which applies the plating of tin to the base metal.

Competing with the tin can will be a newly processed can of bonderized steel which will be used for non-corrosive, mild products.

The basic material, steel, is sprayed with a bonderizing solution, giving a fine grained phosphate coating. A coat of lacquer, either clear, opaque or colored will be applied to protect it against rust. The army is enlisting the services of this can now and a few may be found on the civilian market. Experts believe this to be a highly satisfactory substitute for the tin can in preserving foods.

Dealers in perishable products, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, will have to compete with the growing popularity of frozen foods. Bunches of broccoli neatly packaged in airtight cellophane bags have been offered in some markets and prospects point to the use of the transparent wrapping as a booming postwar development.

Tomatoes of the postwar market will be attractively displayed on cardboard trays which will be wrapped

in cellophane, pliofilm or other transparent sheets and tightly sealed. This packaging will permit full view to the consumer and prevent excess handling in the retail stores.

Frozen corn, peas and other foods will be enclosed in a two-ply lamination of high wet strength paper and cellophane. This material retains its full plasticity and pliability under freezing and storage temperatures and protects food against moisture and vapor losses. The container is rigid enough to stay open after being formed so that it can be filled easily. Lamination of other packing materials such as cellophane to tin and pliofilm to aluminum foil also will be available.

In the service of the army now and in line for civilians after the war is a wax-coated paper which is being used to package bouillon and lemon-juice powders for ration "K". Cellophane and aluminum foil laminated with wax also is in use as a wrapping material. An intricate wrapping machine receives the powder from a hopper and feeds it into flexible sheets which are formed into a continuous tube of paper. At regularly designated intervals the tube is then hermetically sealed and cut.

Plastics are taking their place in the ranks of packaging materials. In the future they will appear in all sizes, shapes and colors. The latest is the army's pill box which is water resistant and stable enough to prevent warping or swelling under adverse conditions. The box is of such durable material that it can be stepped on without breaking.

A rigid transparent package of ethylcellulose is being perfected. It can be adapted to many uses, does not warp or crack, retains its shape under varied storage conditions and is easily and economically made.

An airtight, moisture and vapor-proof aluminum foil will be used as liners for cartons, boxes and sacks.

Cellulose bands which can be easily and economically applied around bottle caps will protect the containers against the invasions of foreign substances. They will add an extra seal to insure against dust, dirt and deterioration.

*Pea soya soup packaged in durable cellophane bags is one of the many food products benefiting from the new improved methods of packaging. The containers are carefully sealed to provide maximum protection against moisture and other destructive agents*

