

EsterForum!

Esterform opens a new distribution centre

Work on our new national distribution centre is almost complete.

The facility in Tenbury Wells will consist of 60,000 square feet of warehouse space, and a large trailer park.

Our key objectives for the distribution centre are the highest possible hygiene standards, plus increased speed and efficiency in loading. In addition, flexibility in responding to sudden changes in customer requirements is vital.



Tÿ Nant breaks the mould with PET

Esterform played a vital role in introducing Tÿ Nant Spring Water Limited and their designer to mould makers R & D Tool & Engineering.

The result of this 4 party development was the award winning range of ice sculpture PET bottles for Tÿ Nant. Previously Tÿ Nant's products had been packaged exclusively in glass.

Esterform worked closely with R & D, and moulds were produced and bottles blown on Esterform's development machine. Esterform now supplies the preforms.



Tÿ Nant's 500 ml PET bottle

New range of PET household bottles launched

One of the first 38 mm neck PET bottles developed by Esterform was to fit dosing and pouring caps for use with fabric conditioners and similar products.



The new household range: Examples of trigger spray & disinfectant bottles

In order to support this market further, we have invested in new preform tooling and machinery. The range includes 25g, 32g, 36g and 70g preforms with 28 mm-410 and 28 mm-415 neck finishes.

A standard range of neck finishes has been designed to fit wadded or bore-seal closures from cap suppliers such as Kalmar, UCP, Dragon Plastics, Canyon and Scanbech.



The original Fabcon range

With blow moulding technology that includes preferential heating, a range of bottles including 250ml, 500 ml, 750 ml, 1 litre and 2 litre bottles have been developed.

Target markets for these bottles include the household market (trigger spray and antiseptic/disinfectant), and the DIY market (white spirit, BBQ, wall-paper stripper). A key feature on the bottles for potentially hazardous products is the tactile hazard warning triangle for the visually impaired (see below).



Examples of white spirit and Barbecue fluid bottles with CRC closures



Tactile hazard triangle



The preforms used for the household bottles

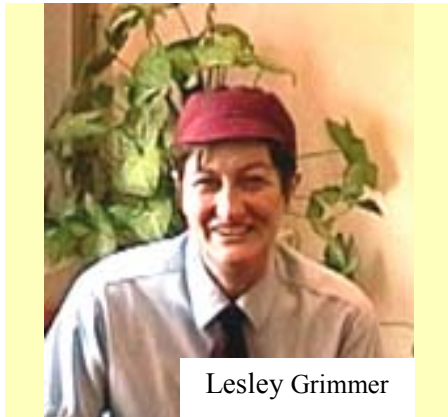
New starters at Esterform

The growth of our business during the last year has led to an increase in the number employed at Tenbury Wells.

Recent new starters include **Lesley Grimmer**, who joined Esterform earlier this year as Team Leader, Black Shift.

Lesley has 10 years experience in team leadership at Sun Valley and M & M Sports. She has also run her own business in motor cycle training.

Originally from Cardiff, Lesley now lives in Leominster with her husband, 4



Lesley Grimmer

children and 3 dogs. Not surprisingly, one of her favourite pastimes is dog-training!

Another new starter is **Richard Wall**. Esterform welcomes Richard back to Tenbury Wells, where he previously worked as a setter for 13 years up to 1998.

Richard is married, with 3 children, and lives in Ludlow. Apart from family life, he has a keen interest in motor bikes



Richard Wall

Esterform's new 1 litre wine bottle proves a success

We are always trying to improve our standard range of bottles. The new 1 litre "wine bottle" is a welcome addition to the range.

Discussions with our customers before the design phase, allowed us to incorporate the features they requested in the overall design. Feedback from our customers indicated that the overall elegance of the design, and the stability of the bottle on the filling line were especially highly rated.

To achieve a true wine bottle image, Esterform's designer modified the bottle base, to give it greater stability and a less obviously "petalloid" base. In addition, slightly lengthening the parallel section underneath the neck ring, has allowed the bottle to be airveyed much more easily.

As in all new product design for Esterform, the optimum solution for the customer was sought.



The new "wine" bottle

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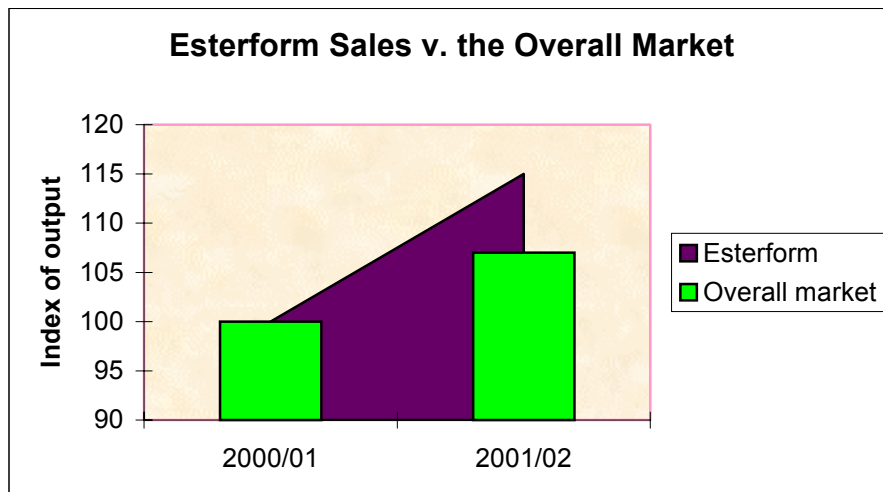
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Esterform sales outpace the growth of PET

Since Esterform Packaging took over Able Industries in February 2001, the rate of growth of the combined operation has outpaced the overall growth of the UK industry. The market increased by approximately 7%, compared to 15% growth at Esterform.



Stop Press
5 litre capacity increases

A new Husky has been installed to run our 8 impression tool on which handles for large PET bottles (3 litre to 10 litre) are produced at Tenbury.

In conjunction with our preform and bottle capacity, this will allow for increased output of 5 litre bottles in particular over the Summer season.