

Home and dry with Palletways

Homebase, one of the leading DIY and home enhancement retailers, has 300 stores across the UK and Republic of Ireland and offers around 40,000 products across DIY and decorating, home and garden ranges to its customers.

“The added value services Palletways provides, such as their advance email advice for orders, really sets them apart from other palletised freight networks and gives them a competitive edge.”



With such a vast product range, Homebase deals with a huge number of individual suppliers each week, but has recently found a solution to the age-old problem of co-ordinating separate deliveries from each into its stores.

The company now uses Palletways as its nominated carrier for all palletised freight delivery to its stores, resulting in a more defined delivery system and, consequently, a significant reduction in the number of man-hours used to receive deliveries.

Palletways is the largest pallet network in the UK and comprises over 100 depots operated by established and highly professional independent transport companies, known as Palletways members, who combine each others' resources to deliver goods throughout the UK.

Each of Homebase's suppliers delivers its palletised freight to its nearest Palletways hub, where unique information technology processes the freight. The goods are consolidated into individual orders and these

are then sorted into designated areas in the hub according to the final delivery points at stores across the UK.

Local Palletways members from across the country collect the goods from the three hubs and then return to their local depots with the Homebase products they have been assigned to deliver.

Homebase benefits from the high-speed internet connections which Palletways has introduced at all its depots throughout the UK and which enables an unrivalled, web-based track and trace capability.

Homebase personnel can obtain information on the status of any consignment they have put through the network – from point of input into the network system through to the final delivery - ensuring they can stock their shelves with the products customers want, when they want them.

Later this year, Homebase will also be taking advantage of a new added-value pre-delivery service from Palletways. Each store will receive an email in advance of every Palletways

delivery stating exactly which orders are due the following day, helping each store predict how many staff will be required to receive each one.

Stephen Anastasi, Supply Development Manager at Homebase, says: “We have had an indirect relationship with Palletways for years, as an increasing number of our suppliers used the network as their chosen logistics provider to deliver goods to our stores. The network came extremely highly recommended from these suppliers as well as others due to the superb level of service Palletways provides.

“The idea of having a nominated carrier for each of our suppliers is relatively new, but it has worked well so far, and we have seen the benefits from day one with Palletways consolidating each store's delivery at the hubs.

“The added value services Palletways provides, such as their advance email advice for orders, really sets them apart from other palletised freight networks and gives them a competitive edge.”

For further information on Palletways visit the Palletways website on: www.palletways.com

