



Custom
Packaging Products

THE #1 BULK BAG BUYER'S GUIDE ON THE INTERNET

5,000 lbs

Max Safe Working Load

4

Safety Classifications

100+

Configuration Options

30%

Savings via Blanket Orders

***“The only guide you need to spec, source,
and save on FIBCs — from novice to pro.”***

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What Is a Bulk Bag (FIBC)?

The Basics, Demystified

If you're new to industrial packaging, the terminology can feel overwhelming. Here's a plain-language foundation before we get into the details.

FIBC stands for **Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container** — but in warehouses and on spec sheets you'll hear them called **bulk bags**, **super sacks**, **jumbo bags**, or **big bags**. They all mean the same thing.

An FIBC is a very large, very strong woven polypropylene bag designed to hold, transport, and store dry, flowable materials — sand, fertilizer, grain, sugar, cement powder, plastic pellets, chemicals, and hundreds more.

A single bulk bag replaces roughly **40 traditional 50-lb bags**, slashing labor, handling time, and storage footprint. It is one of the most cost-effective forms of industrial packaging available.

SPECIFICATION	TYPICAL RANGE
Safe Working Load (SWL)	500–5,000 lbs (most common: 2,000 lbs)
Safety Factor	5:1 — rated to 5x its SWL before failure
Fabric Material	Woven polypropylene (PP)
Standard Dimensions	35"×35"×45" to 48"×48"×60"
Cubic Capacity	Typically 35–75 cubic feet
Weight Empty	3–12 lbs
UV Resistance	Optional UV stabilization available
Reusability	Single-trip (1x) or certified multi-trip

What can they hold?

Sand, gravel, cement, fly ash, fertilizer, grain, flour, sugar, salt, plastic resins, carbon black, pigments, chemicals, pet food, and hundreds more dry flowable products.

Single-trip vs. Multi-trip

Most bags are single-trip (used once, recycled). Multi-trip bags carry higher safety factors (6:1), reinforced construction, and are certified for repeated use — important for closed-loop operations.

INDUSTRY TERMINOLOGY

"FIBC," "bulk bag," "super sack," "big bag," and "jumbo bag" are all used interchangeably in the industry. They all refer to the same product category.

Types A, B, C & D

The Safety Classification That Can't Be Ignored

This is the most important decision when specifying a bulk bag. Getting It wrong isn't just a purchasing mistake — it's a potential safety incident.

SAFETY FIRST

The type classification is a SAFETY specification, not a quality tier. Using a Type A bag in a flammable environment — even temporarily — creates a real ignition risk. When in doubt, always upgrade. The cost difference is small compared to the cost of an incident.

A

Type A Bulk Bags

STANDARD POLYPROPYLENE · NO STATIC PROTECTION

The most common and economical bulk bag. Made from plain woven polypropylene with no electrostatic protection. Type A bags generate static electricity during filling and emptying — their use is strictly limited to non-hazardous environments.

✓ APPROPRIATE FOR

- ✓ Non-hazardous, non-flammable dry materials
- ✓ Sand, gravel, rock, stone, non-reactive food products
- ✓ Locations with no flammable solvents, gases, or dusts

✗ NEVER USE WHEN

- ✗ When transporting flammable or combustible materials
- ✗ When flammable gases or solvents are present nearby
- ✗ When combustible dust with ignition energy <1,000mJ is present

B

Type B Bulk Bags

LOW BREAKDOWN VOLTAGE · NO ANTISTATIC PROPERTIES

Looks identical to Type A, but fabric has a low breakdown voltage that prevents propagating brush discharges (PBD). Important: Type B bags do NOT dissipate static electricity and are NOT antistatic. They simply prevent the most energetic discharge type.

✓ APPROPRIATE FOR

- ✓ Dry, flammable powders where no solvents or gases are present
- ✓ Environments with combustible dust with ignition energy >3mJ
- ✓ When PBD prevention is needed but grounding is not feasible

✗ NEVER USE WHEN

- ✗ When flammable solvents or vapors are present
- ✗ When combustible dust ignition energy is ≤3mJ
- ✗ Any scenario where full static dissipation is required

C

Type C Bulk Bags

CONDUCTIVE · MUST BE GROUNDED TO EARTH

Made from polypropylene interwoven with conductive carbon yarns. When properly grounded, safely dissipates static to earth. **CRITICAL:** An ungrounded Type C bag provides ZERO protection — verify grounding before every single fill and discharge cycle.

✓ APPROPRIATE FOR

- ✓ Flammable powders and combustible dusts (when grounded)
- ✓ Environments with flammable vapors or gases (when grounded)
- ✓ Operations where static control is mandatory

✗ NEVER USE WHEN

- ✗ When ground connection is absent, damaged, or unverified

D

Type D Bulk Bags

CROHMIQ® FABRIC · NO GROUNDING REQUIRED

Uses static-protective fabric (CROHMIQ®) that safely dissipates static without any connection to ground. Eliminates the #1 failure mode of **Type C bags**: operator error in grounding. The safest and most operationally reliable option for hazardous environments.

✓ APPROPRIATE FOR

- ✓ Flammable powders, vapors, gases, and combustible dusts
- ✓ High-throughput operations where grounding verification is impractical
- ✓ Any hazardous environment requiring maximum safety assurance

✗ NEVER USE WHEN

- ✗ When bag surface is contaminated with grease, oil, or conductive coatings
- ✗ When any conductive material is applied to the bag exterior

Side-by-Side Safety Comparison

SAFETY FEATURE	TYPE A	TYPE B	TYPE C	TYPE D
Dissipates static electricity	✗	✗	✓ (grounded)	✓
Prevents brush discharges	✗	✗	✓ (grounded)	✓
Prevents propagating brush discharge (PBD)	✗	✓	✓	✓
Safe with flammable powders (MIE ≤3mJ)	✗	✗	✓ (grounded)	✓
Safe with flammable solvents	✗	✗	✓ (grounded)	✓
Safe without grounding	✓ (non-haz)	✓ (no solvents)	✗	✓
Approximate cost vs. Type A	Baseline	+10–20%	+30–60%	+50–90%

Bag Body Construction

4-Panel, U-Panel, Circular & Baffle

The way the bulk bag is sewn together affects how it fills, stacks, stores, and discharges. Most buyers overlook this — don't.

4-Panel Construction ★ POPULAR

Four separate fabric panels sewn at the corners. The most common construction worldwide — readily available, cost-effective, good for most standard applications. Tends to "mushroom" or bulge at the sides when filled, reducing storage density.

U-Panel Construction

One large "U"-shaped panel forms the bottom and two opposing sides; two panels form the front and back. Fewer seams than 4-panel, generally stronger at corners. A good choice for heavier materials or where seam integrity is critical.

Circular Construction ★ Cheapest

Woven as a continuous tube — no vertical seams. Creates a cylindrical bag with superior strength-to-weight ratio and minimal stress points. Excellent for free-flowing granular materials. The round footprint is slightly less efficient for warehouse stacking.

Baffle Construction ★ Most Expensive

Internal fabric panels (baffles) sewn inside at the corners prevent the bag from bulging outward. Maintains a square, stackable footprint when filled. Significantly improves pallet storage density. Higher cost than 4-panel but often pays back quickly in warehouse and freight savings.

Standard Baffle

Solid fabric baffles at each interior corner. Most common type — very effective at preventing side bulging. Slightly harder to empty as material can get trapped behind the panels.

Net Baffle

Baffles made from open mesh netting. Maintains bag shape while allowing material to flow freely through the netting. Easier to empty completely. Preferred for cohesive or sticky materials.

WAREHOUSE MATH: WHY BAFFLE BAGS PAY OFF

A standard 4-panel bag often bulges 20–30% beyond its nominal footprint when filled. Baffle bags stay square. For operations storing 100+ bags, this can eliminate 20–30 wasted pallet positions — real savings on storage and freight.

Loop Construction

How Your Bags Get Lifted Matters More Than You Think

The lift loop is the most structurally critical part of any bulk bag — all load stress concentrates here during lifting. Wrong loop style = safety and efficiency problems from day one.

Corner Loop ★POPULAR

Four separate loops, one at each corner. The most common loop style. Easy to attach to standard fork tine spreaders. Works with nearly every lifting setup. The default choice for most industrial operations.

Cross Corner Loop

Loops run diagonally across the corners. Creates wider lifting geometry — bags hang more stably and are less prone to tipping. Very common for food-grade and chemical applications where stability during transport is paramount.

Stevedore Strap

A single long strap that runs under the bag bottom and over the top — a wrap-around sling. Distributes load across the entire bag rather than just the corners. Used heavily in maritime and port operations.

Sleeve Lift

Fabric sleeves that fork tines slide directly through — no separate lifting gear needed. Very fast and simple. Ideal for high-throughput pallet-based operations where speed matters.

MATCH LOOPS TO YOUR LIFTING EQUIPMENT

Corner loops require a spreader bar or four-point hook; cross corner loops can work with a simple crane hook; sleeve lift bags require compatible fork tine dimensions. Mismatched loops and lifting equipment is a common, avoidable source of accidents. Call CPP — we will help you match the right loop to your setup.

Top & Bottom Construction

The Decisions That Drive Your Fill & Discharge Process

This is where most first-time buyers make specification mistakes. The top and bottom of your bag must be designed around your filling method and discharge process — not chosen arbitrarily.

TOP CONSTRUCTION OPTIONS

Open Top

No closure — the top is simply open. Simplest and cheapest option. Best for filling from conveyor belts or hoppers where precise alignment is not needed. Not suitable for sensitive or food-grade materials without a liner.

Duffle Top

A fabric skirt at the top that ties or tucks down to enclose contents after filling. Acts as a basic dust cover. No special filling equipment required.

Spout Top ★ POPULAR

A centered fabric tube (14"–20" diameter) that connects to a fill spout or hopper outlet. The best choice for dusty or fine materials. The spout ties off after filling. Requires compatible filling station equipment.

Spout Top w/ Flap

Same as spout top, plus a fabric flap that covers the spout once filled and tied. Prevents debris or moisture entry even if the tie loosens. Required for outdoor storage, food-grade, and applications where product purity is paramount.

Conical Spout Top

A spout top that tapers outward like a funnel. The wider cone shape makes it easier to align with filling equipment and reduces spills. Good for high-speed filling lines.

TOP SELECTION RULE OF THUMB

Coarse materials filled by conveyor: Open Top. | Fine, dusty materials: Spout Top. | Food-grade or outdoor storage: Spout Top with Flap.

BOTTOM CONSTRUCTION OPTIONS

Plain Bottom (Flat Bottom)

The simplest, most economical bottom. Sewn shut with no discharge opening. Material is emptied by cutting or tipping the bag. Best for single-use applications where material is scooped or dumped. Common in construction and agriculture.

Discharge Spout ★POPULAR

A centered fabric tube on the bottom that ties shut during transport. Untie the spout to discharge in a controlled stream. The most common bottom choice for precise dispensing. Works with augers, conveyors, and most industrial unloaders.

Discharge Spout w/ Flap

Discharge spout plus a safety flap covering the tied spout. Prevents accidental opening during transport. Highly recommended for hazardous, food-grade, or high-value materials.

Duffle Bottom

A fabric skirt that opens wide to dump the entire contents at once. Less precise than a spout but faster for full-load dumps into large hoppers or mixing vessels.

Conical Discharge Spout

A tapered funnel-shaped bottom that narrows to a discharge tube. The cone shape helps cohesive or bridging materials flow freely, reduces dead spots, and promotes complete emptying. Essential for sticky or clumping materials.

COMMON MISTAKE: MISMATCHED SPOUT DIAMETER

The spout diameter on your bottom must match your unloading equipment's inlet. Standard sizes are 14", 18", or 20" — but your unloader may require a specific size. Always confirm spout diameter with your equipment supplier before ordering.

SECTION 06

Matching Your Bag to Your Filling Method

Spec the Bag Around the Process

Your bag must work with your filling station—not against it. Here's how common filling methods map to bag specifications.

FILLING METHOD	RECOMMENDED TOP	RECOMMENDED BOTTOM	NOTES
Gravity hopper / chute	Open Top or Spout Top	Plain or Discharge Spout	Spout top preferred for fine/dusty materials
Pneumatic / blown-in	Spout Top	Plain or Discharge Spout	Bag needs breathable fabric to allow air escape.
Conveyor belt top-fill	Open Top	Plain or Discharge Spout	Baffle bag strongly recommended to prevent overflow during fill.
Automated fill station	Spout Top or Conical	Discharge Spout	Consistent spout dimensions critical for automated alignment.
Shovel / bulk dumping	Open Top or Duffle	Plain	Simplest configuration. Use baffle bag if stacking efficiency matters
Food / pharma grade	Spout Top w/ Flap	Discharge Spout w/ Flap	Add a liner. Confirm food-grade fabric certification with CPP

Does your material flow freely?

Free-flowing granules work well with a standard discharge spout. Cohesive, caking, or sticky materials need a conical bottom or vibration assist to prevent bridging.

Do you need to re-seal mid-bag?

If you need to partially empty a bag and re-seal for later use, a discharge spout with a tie (and ideally a flap) is the only practical option. Plain bottom bags are single-discharge only.

SECTION 07

When (and Why) to Use a Liner Don't Skip This Section

Many buyers either skip them when they need them or over-specify them when they don't. Here's how to decide correctly.

WHAT IS A LINER?

A bulk bag liner is a polyethylene (PE) film bag inserted inside the FIBC. The outer bag provides structural strength; the liner provides moisture barrier, contamination barrier, or static-free surface. Liners can have their own fill and discharge spouts that align with the outer bag's construction.

Liner Types

Tube Liner **MOST COMMON**

A simple polyethylene tube — the most economical liner option. Excellent moisture barrier. Top ties off after filling; bottom is slit or pulled through the discharge spout to empty. Best for most standard moisture-sensitive applications.

Form-Fit Liner **PREMIUM**

Fabricated to exactly match bag dimensions. Minimizes product waste and stays in place during filling and emptying. Required for food-grade, pharmaceutical, and high-value chemical applications.

Spout Liner **FOR SPOUT BAGS**

Has integrated fill and discharge spouts that mate with the outer bag's spout construction. Essential when using a spout-top bag with a liner — ensures dust-tight filling and complete containment.

Barrier Liner **SPECIALTY**

Multi-layer laminated film (PE + foil or EVOH) blocking moisture, oxygen, and odors. Used for highly hygroscopic materials (sugar, calcium chloride) and oxygen-sensitive chemicals with strict shelf-life requirements.

Anti-Static Liner **HAZMAT**

Dissipative polyethylene liner for use with Type C or D bags when the material itself causes static buildup. Used in pharmaceutical and fine chemical applications.

Conductive Liner **HAZMAT**

Fully conductive PE liner that discharges static to ground. Used alongside Type C bags where both the bag AND liner must be grounded. The most specialized and expensive liner type.

Do You Need a Liner?

Is your material moisture-sensitive?

Sugar, salt, cement, fertilizers, and most fine powders absorb moisture. Even minor moisture uptake causes caking, clumping, or degradation. A liner is almost always the right call.

Is contamination a concern?

Woven polypropylene is slightly porous. For food, pharma, or any application where product purity matters, a liner is required.

Is the material extremely fine (under 75 microns / 200 mesh)?

Particles this fine will leak through standard bag fabric. A liner is mandatory to prevent product loss and dust generation.

Will the bag be stored outdoors or in humid conditions?

A liner dramatically extends product quality — especially important for agricultural products, fertilizers, and hygroscopic chemicals.

New vs. Used Bulk Bags

One of the Smartest Moves in Industrial Packaging

For the right applications, a quality used bulk bag performs identically to a new one — at 40–60% of the cost. For buyers going through hundreds of bags a month, that's tens of thousands of dollars back in your pocket annually. It's not a workaround. It's smart procurement.

💰 THE SAVINGS ARE REAL A buyer using 500 bags/month who switches to quality used bags can save \$25,000–\$40,000 per year with zero performance compromise on the right applications.

✓ Used Bulk Bags — Ideal For	→ When New Makes More Sense
✓ Sand, gravel, rock, and aggregates ✓ Cement, concrete mix, and fill material ✓ Landscaping — mulch, soil, compost, firewood ✓ Scrap metal, demolition debris, and waste ✓ Non-sensitive agricultural products ✓ Construction site material movement ✓ Any high-volume app where new bag cost is hard to justify ✓ Lower cost — typically 40–60% of new ✓ Immediately available — no lead time	→ Food-grade or pharmaceutical products → Fine chemicals requiring contamination control → Flammable materials (Type B/C/D classification required) → Custom dimensions or branding required → Certified SWL documentation required → Regulatory or audit trail required

✓ THE CPP DIFFERENCE ON USED BAGS

Anyone can sell used bags. CPP inspects, grades, and stands behind every bag we sell — checking loop integrity, seam condition, UV degradation, and prior contents. You get a vetted product with a supplier who stands behind it. That's the difference between a smart purchase and a gamble.

WHAT TO CHECK WHEN BUYING USED BAGS ELSEWHERE

Inspect loops and seams before accepting any bag — fraying or stitching damage at the attachment points is a hard disqualifier. Ask about prior contents; a reputable supplier can tell you. Test for UV degradation by bending a small section of fabric — if it cracks or feels stiff, walk away. Never use a bag with visible cuts, tears, or compromised seams regardless of price.

Pricing, Blanket Orders & Saving Money

How to Maximize Your Purchasing Power

Bulk bags are commodity-adjacent products where volume and purchasing strategy matter enormously. Here are the levers smart buyers use to drive cost down without sacrificing quality.

■ Blanket Purchase Orders

A blanket order commits you to a total annual volume (e.g., 2,000 bags) in exchange for manufacturer pricing. Product ships in smaller scheduled releases — you get volume pricing without tying up cash in inventory. Typical savings: 15–30% vs. spot pricing. Also locks in price against raw material fluctuations and gives you priority production scheduling.

Fabric Weight (GSM) — A Major Cost Driver

Bulk bag fabric is measured in grams per square meter (GSM). Heavier fabric costs more but provides greater durability and UV resistance. Most standard 2,000-lb applications use 130–150 GSM fabric. Over-specifying to 200 GSM on a standard application is a common way buyers overpay without any real benefit.

GSM RANGE	BEST FOR	RELATIVE COST
100–120 GSM	Light duty, indoor use, short-life applications	Lowest
130–150 GSM	Standard industrial applications — the sweet spot	Moderate
160–180 GSM	Heavy materials, rough handling, multi-trip	Higher
190+ GSM	Maximum durability, harsh outdoor environments	Highest

Imported Bags (India, China)

8–16 week lead times. Lower unit cost — most economical for high-volume standard applications. Most global FIBC supply is manufactured in South and Southeast Asia. Quality varies — let CPP vet suppliers for you.

Domestic / North American

2–6 week lead times. Premium pricing but faster turnaround and easier quality auditing. Required for Buy American compliance on government and defense contracts.

■ THE TOTAL COST FORMULA MOST BUYERS MISS

Don't just compare unit prices. Calculate COST PER TON MOVED. A \$12 bag holding 1 metric ton = \$12/ton. A \$9 bag holding 800kg = \$11.25/ton AND requires 25% more bag purchases annually. Model on volume moved, not bags purchased.

Common Misconceptions

Things First-Time Buyers Get Wrong

These are the misunderstandings we hear most often. Getting these wrong leads to over-spending, under-specifying for safety, or choosing the wrong bag entirely.

MYTH

"A higher Safe Working Load means a stronger, better bag."

✓ THE TRUTH

SWL should match your application — not exceed it unnecessarily. All bulk bags are built to a 5:1 safety factor regardless of SWL rating. A 2,000-lb SWL bag is tested to 10,000 lbs before failure. Buying a 4,000-lb bag when you're filling to 1,500 lbs doesn't make it safer — it just costs more. Spec to your actual fill weight with a reasonable margin.

MYTH

"All Type C bags are safe in hazardous environments."

✓ THE TRUTH

A Type C bag is only safe when properly grounded. An ungrounded Type C bag provides ZERO protection — it's effectively a Type A bag. The grounding connection must be verified before every fill and discharge cycle. In operations where grounding is dependent on operator compliance, Type D bags eliminate this failure mode entirely.

MYTH

"Bigger bags always mean lower cost per use."

✓ THE TRUTH

Larger bags cost more to manufacture and ship. If your process only uses 60% of a jumbo bag's capacity, you're paying for fabric and transport on empty space. Calculate your average fill weight, choose a bag with SWL about 10–20% above that, and avoid paying for unused capacity.

MYTH

"Bulk bags are just bags — they're all basically the same."

✓ THE TRUTH

There are hundreds of meaningful specification variables — fabric weight, construction type, safety classification, loop style, top/bottom configuration, coatings, liners, UV stabilization, and more. A poorly-specified bag creates real problems: contamination, filling station incompatibility, warehouse inefficiency, safety incidents, or simply paying too much. Buying on price alone is a mistake that costs more in operational problems than it saves on unit price.

How to Spec Your Bag

The Complete Pre-Purchase Checklist

Walk through these questions before requesting a quote. The more you can answer, the faster we get you to the right bag at the right price.

01

What material are you putting in it?

Product name, particle size (mesh), bulk density (lbs/cu ft), and moisture content. Determines fabric weight, coating needs, liner requirement, and safety classification.

02

Is the material or environment flammable/hazardous?

If any material, gas, solvent, or combustible dust is present anywhere in your operation — even adjacent areas — you must specify Type B, C, or D. Never assume Type A is safe.

03

What is your fill weight?

Your typical fill weight drives SWL selection. Choose a bag with SWL at least 10–15% above your maximum anticipated fill weight.

04

What are your space constraints?

Measure your filling station, pallet size, racking system, and container dimensions. Bag footprint and height at full capacity must fit your physical space.

05

How is it being filled?

Conveyor, hopper, pneumatic, manual — and what are the spout/inlet dimensions of your filling equipment? This determines your exact top construction specification.

06

How is it being emptied?

Bulk dump, spout discharge, auger unloader, bag unloader frame? Spout diameter must match your unloading equipment inlet precisely.

07

What is your lifting method?

Forklift with spreader bar, crane, overhead hoist? Different loop styles are optimized for different lifting equipment.

08

Single-trip or multi-trip?

Do bags travel one-way to customers, or do they return to you in a closed loop? Multi-trip bags are certified for reuse. One-way typically uses single-trip bags.

09

What are your print/labeling requirements?

Logo, product name, handling instructions, or UN certification markings. Custom print requires higher MOQ — plan accordingly.

10

What is your annual volume?

Annual quantity is the most important pricing variable. Even a rough estimate helps CPP identify whether blanket orders, import sourcing, or domestic stock provides the best value.