

GREEN JOB FACT SHEET

STRUCTURAL DESIGNER

Structural Designers in the corrugated packaging industry lead the design of products and packaging from concept to completion.

THE BIG PICTURE

Structural designers manage multiple duties, including:

- Applying engineering fundamentals to design packaging elements for improved cost, performance, and functionality.
- Providing technical support to internal teams and clients.

IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

DO YOU LIKE ENGINEERING? DO YOU LIKE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND CREATE SOLUTIONS? DO YOU LIKE LEARNING ABOUT HOW THINGS ARE MADE?

- Structural designers effectively communicate with multiple audiences to understand customer needs, convey abstract ideas, and support discussions.
- A proven track record of critical thinking and problem-solving skills is important for structural designers.
- Structural designers visualize and develop compelling design possibilities and innovative packaging solutions. Structural designers must be familiar with drafting, Computer Assisted Design (CAD), and 3D design software to produce necessary product design documentation.
- Many companies want structural designers to have a technical understanding of the production methods, printing methods, materials, and styles of packaging.

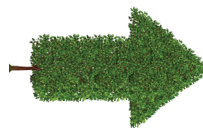
SALARY

The U.S. average starting annual salary is \$62,691 or \$30.14/hour and the U.S. median annual salary is \$71,500 or \$34.38/hour.

FUTURE HIRING DEMAND

Structural design jobs are in demand, with these jobs projected to grow 7% from 2018 to 2028.

MOVING FORWARD



Aspiring structural designers should:

- Earn an associate's or bachelor's degree in graphic design, structural design, engineering, or packaging.
- Explore internships or co-ops, which are a great way to gain experience while completing required coursework. Certain universities across the U.S. and Canada offer degrees related specifically to packaging.

CONSIDER A #CAREERINCORRUGATED

In 2022, the corrugated packaging industry manufactured 401 billion square feet of material used to make boxes, displays, and other corrugated packaging.

For more about green jobs, visit www.plt.org/workingforforests