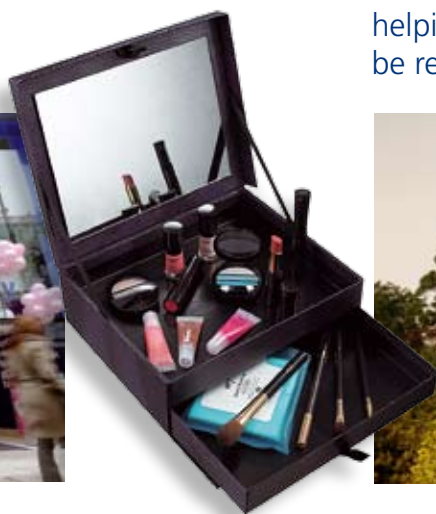


# Palletways delivers Christmas cheer

Boots The Chemists, the leading high street health and beauty retailer, has 1,500 stores across the UK and Irish Republic. Boots offers thousands of products to customers at any one time, but is never busier than in the lead-up to the Christmas period.

Each Boots store receives 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 delivery.



The vast range of products the company offers its customers, combined with a rise in demand from as early as August each year, led Boots to launch a new distribution operation dedicated to seasonal goods in order to maintain product flow. This operation consists of a new warehouse facility in Worcester in which all seasonal goods are stored to relieve the regional distribution centres of excessive volume of stock. Boots also chose Europe's leading pallet network, Palletways, to deliver these goods to selected stores around the country.

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.

Boots transports goods from its Worcester facility into Palletways' Lichfield hub, where unique information technology processes

the freight. The goods, which are already order-picked and labelled by Boots, are sorted into designated areas in the hub according to the locations of their final delivery points at stores across the UK.

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

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Boots 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.

Data relating to every pallet consignment is sent in real time via the internet to

two major servers at a central processing centre. By accessing the Palletways website and entering their unique login name, Boots personnel can then 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 their customers want, when they want them.

Daniel Wallace, Christmas Operations Manager at Boots, says: "We have had a relationship with Palletways for a number of years, using the network on an ad hoc basis to deliver one-off gift guides or catalogues to stores. When we decided on a dedicated operation specifically dealing with Christmas stock, they were an obvious candidate to tender for the contract. It is a large operation, with Palletways delivering over 40,000 pallets to our stores between August and early January each year.

For further information on Palletways visit the Palletways website on: [www.palletways.com](http://www.palletways.com)

