

# Kwik Lok®

## The Global Leader In Packaging Solutions



### Flexible Thinking for Flexible Packaging

Family owned and locally inspired since 1954, Kwik Lok Corporation has grown from its humble beginnings to become the global market leader in bag closures. Kwik Lok's small, plastic, reusable closure reliably keeps food fresh and safe for families around the world. Founded by engineer Floyd Paxton in the small city of Yakima, WA, Kwik Lok remains headquartered in Yakima. They now have over 330 employees across six factories worldwide, and produce billions of closures each year that are used by people in almost 100 countries on six continents.

Early on, Kwik Lok developed a strong reputation for the reliability and consistency of their closures in both the bakery and produce markets. This continued to be a successful focus for many decades as the company opened markets and refined the technology of their closure system. In 2015, Kwik Lok announced a new generation of Paxton family leadership to oversee the company – sisters Stephanie Paxton Jackson, Kimberly Paxton-Hagner and Melissa Steiner. With the new owners came a new generation of ideas requiring innovation and flexible thinking.

Today, Kwik Lok's new owners understand that as a plastics company, its products have a global impact, and they are working to minimize the closure's environmental footprint to spur positive change in the packaging industry. As the current owners of Kwik Lok, the sisters are propelling the company toward greater sustainability through its new Fresh Start initiative, as outlined in the company's first Corporate Sustainability Report.



Fresh Start is rooted in four key strategies: opportunity, well-being, protection and innovation. Through these four sustainability pillars, Kwik Lok is holding itself accountable for the education and economic success of its employees; improving the health, safety and well-being of all people; protecting the planet; and fostering innovation in food safety, access and manufacturing. Kwik Lok has always led the way in low-cost, time-saving food safety technology, but now the company is taking a clear stance on implementing more environmentally sound production practices, arguing, "If not now, when? If not us, who?"



When this initiative began, Kwik Lok started taking small steps toward developing sustainable products. Recognizing that driving meaningful change often takes a team, Kwik Lok worked to identify key partners whose missions to deliver more sustainable, high-quality packaging solutions aligned with their own. Early collaborations included work with French company ARC to launch the Kwik Line, a bagless machine that bunches produce, and Pittsburgh-based Matthews Marking Systems to develop the 912, an eco-friendly laser printer. These first important steps forward enabled Kwik Lok to take an even bigger step: realizing the untapped opportunity in the market to create a more eco-friendly bag closure. However, to make this new closure, Kwik Lok recognized it would need a materials partner willing to challenge the status quo.



Before joining Kwik Lok, current CEO Don Carrell was introduced to BioLogiQ, Inc. of Idaho Falls, ID at a plastics industry trade show conference in 2015. BioLogiQ makes and sells affordable, plant based resins to plastic product manufacturers, allowing companies to continue utilizing their existing equipment as they transition to more sustainable materials. Don was immediately intrigued by BioLogiQ's NuPlastiQ BioPolymer product; a 100% natural, renewably sourced, plant-based biopolymer. Over the next year, Don became more familiar with the NuPlastiQ product, having obtained leftover product scrap from a local extruder to better understand the product and its viability as a high performance packaging material.

When Don arrived at Kwik Lok in 2017, he and the Paxton sisters began to work closely with other Kwik Lok leaders to drive change and to usher in the company's new era of sustainability. Given Don's continued interest in the NuPlastiQ material, an alliance between Kwik Lok and BioLogiQ was formed. The two companies worked together to run trials, develop formulas, and ultimately produce a product that would become Eco-Lok, the world's first sustainable bag closure. Eco-Lok utilizes BioLogiQ's proprietary plant-based NuPlastiQ and BioBlend biopolymers, which allow the closures to be produced with up to 20% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than standard plastic bag closures, while also maintaining the same trusted features and performance specs as traditional Kwik Lok closures. By utilizing BioLogiQ's process of blending NuPlastiQ with traditional polystyrene, the Eco-Lok closure is able to maintain the same rigidity standards as traditional closures, and allows customers to keep up with demand while helping to transition the packaging industry toward greater sustainability.



Kwik Lok is committed to setting strict specification standards with its suppliers to ensure consistent quality and performance across the board. Though the corporation primarily handles engineering in-house, Kwik Lok partnered with its suppliers to engineer the Eco-Lok in order to bring it to market more quickly and efficiently, which also opened the door for increased innovation and afforded its suppliers greater flexibility. To develop and produce Eco-Lok, Kwik Lok and BioLogiQ worked collaboratively across all operational functions, including sales, production, R&D, and technical service. In early 2019, Eco-Lok was launched to the public, and as a result, all parties are able to share in the success of the total program, not just in their traditional role.

Due to the flexibility, persistence, and customer-focused relationship of both companies, Eco-Lok has been successfully commercialized and is generating excellent reviews and interest from current and potential customers. This flexible approach will now be used in future projects, including a relationship with both BioLogiQ and Printpack that will be highlighted at the 2019 International Baking Industries Expo. With the launch of Eco-Lok, Kwik Lok is reimagining the bag closure space by pioneering sustainable solutions. Moving forward, the corporation's goal is to create a more circular economy for the plastic packaging industry, emphasizing the responsibility it has to protect the environment for generations to come.

