Refilling the adhesive merely involves moving a small, air-powered pump from one drum to another every two to four weeks, says Daily’s.

Little HUG and other juice drinks are packaged in graphics-intense, multicolor cases that hold 24 to 48 8-oz bottles. With a target audience of moms, kids and teenagers, case graphics in grocery distribution are an important component of point-of-purchase presentation. In the case of Daily’s cocktail mixers, valued at $25 to $30 per case, the products are often displayed in liquor stores, so they also require attractive case graphics to drive sales. With Daily’s hot-melt-sealing systems, the case graphics often become scarred when the cases were pulled supplied by Key Tech Corp./Lock n’ Pop. These systems apply Lock n’ Pop® adhesive, a low-tack, high-shear adhesive that keeps surfaces from abrading yet separates easily with essentially no visible residue.

Lock n’ Pop is an environmentally conscious choice as well. Derived from renewable plant resources, Lock n’ Pop products are water-based, biodegradable, nonflammable, nontoxic, repulpable and recyclable. According to Lock n’ Pop, the amount of solid material required to stabilize a pallet load with the adhesive is “substantially less” than with conventional unitizing methods, and there is no waste to dispose of, as the material itself is recycled in the package recycling/repulping process.

By switching from cases stabilized with cornerboards to Lock n’ Pop’s unitizing agent, COSTCO saves on material costs and labor, while also reducing solid waste. Read about it at: www.packagingdigest.com/info/costco0407

At Daily’s, Lock n’ Pop is now applied to the cases before they enter one of nine wrapper and onto trucks that then move them to a warehouse nine miles away.

While Daily’s still must use stretch wrap to stabilize pallet loads, some applications using Lock n’ Pop do not require additional packaging. The chart at the top of this page shows the environmental benefits that Lock n’ Pop says can be realized with its adhesive system.

According to Ken Janowitz, Daily’s director of operations, there has been no apparent change in load integrity since the hot-melt systems were replaced. And, he says, unlike the maintenance required for hot melt, the only maintenance necessary for the cold-glue adhesive systems are a weekly cleaning of the nozzles with water and a wiping of the photoeyes. “Refilling the adhesive merely involves moving a small, air-powered pump from one drum to another every two to four weeks, and nobody gets burned,” he adds.

“The replacement of hot melt has been a win-win-win situation,” Janowitz continues. “The $60,000 investment in equipment [for all nine lines] paid for itself in eight months, with reduced adhesive cost and improved operations. Safety has been improved, and our graphics have never looked better.”