

Five Reputable Molded Pulp Manufacturers in China 2026: Driving Sustainable Packaging Innovation

A Market Review of Leading Chinese Suppliers Delivering Eco-Friendly Molded Fiber Packaging for Global Buyers

CALIFORNIA, CA, UNITED STATES, August 26, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- DONGGUAN, China – August 26, 2026 – [Tonghe Paper Co., LTD](#), a specialty pulp molding manufacturer based in Dongguan, Guangdong Province, has published a market overview of five reputable molded pulp manufacturers operating in China. The overview is intended to help global buyers identify capable suppliers of molded pulp trays, custom protective fiber packaging, and food-safe biodegradable packaging as demand for plastic-free alternatives accelerates across Europe, North America, and the Asia Pacific.



Tonghe paper industry co.,ltd

Industry Context: Molded Pulp Packaging Gains Regulatory Momentum

The global molded pulp packaging market was valued at USD 6.2 billion in 2025 and is expected to reach USD 10.2 billion by 2033, according to Grand View Research. Asia Pacific accounted for 41.0% of market revenue in 2025, with China holding the largest regional share. The tray segment represented more than 41.0% of global revenue, reflecting sustained demand for pulp packaging trays in food, electronics, and medical device applications.

Regulation is a major driver. The European Union's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (EU) 2025/40, which entered into force on February 11, 2025, requires all packaging placed on the EU market to be recyclable by January 1, 2030. This is pushing brand owners and manufacturers to shift from plastic and expanded polystyrene foam toward fiber-based

alternatives that can be recycled or composted. In parallel, healthcare providers and food service operators are increasingly adopting molded fiber trays to meet internal sustainability commitments and avoid plastic taxes.

Five Manufacturers Driving Molded Pulp Innovation in China

The following five manufacturers represent a cross-section of the molded pulp sector in China, from specialized custom tray producers to international groups with local production bases. Each company brings distinct strengths in production scale, material sourcing, custom tooling, or market-specific compliance.

1. Tonghe Paper Co., LTD

Tonghe Paper Co., LTD is a dedicated pulp molding manufacturer established in 2023, operating a 23,000-square-meter production facility in Qiaotou Town, Dongguan. The company employs 160 people, including a 12-person engineering team focused on mold development, and reports an annual output capacity of 12,000 tons. About 50% of its output is exported to markets including the European Union, the United States, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Brazil.

The company produces a broad range of molded pulp products, including [custom molded pulp trays](#), food-grade molded pulp trays, cosmetic packaging pulp trays, medical device pulp trays, and protective molded pulp packaging for electronics. It works with sugarcane pulp, bamboo pulp, and wood pulp, and states that its products fully biodegrade within 28 days in a natural composting environment. Tonghe also emphasizes lightweight design: its molded pulp packaging weighs approximately 50% less than traditional hard gift boxes, which can reduce storage space and long-distance logistics expenses.

According to product data supplied by the company, Tonghe's molded pulp trays offer wet pressure of 0.15–0.25 g/cm³, dry pressure of 0.28–0.45 g/cm³, and adjustable thickness from 0.8 mm to 5.0 mm. Moisture content is controlled between 8% and 12%, edge crush strength ranges from 3 to 8 kN/m, and compressive strength ranges from 2 to 8 MPa. Standard trays operate from -20°C to 80°C, while food-grade versions can withstand up to 120°C. The company also supports surface treatments such as special coating, embossing, and printing to meet brand-specific requirements.

For buyers requiring regulatory compliance, Tonghe states its molded pulp products meet SGS RoHS and PFAS-free requirements, making them suitable for export to markets with strict chemical restrictions. The company supports custom mold design for complex, irregular shapes and offers OEM molded pulp tray development. More information is available at www.tonghepulp.com.

2. Huhtamaki

Huhtamaki is a global packaging company with multiple manufacturing sites in China. It is widely recognized for its fiber-based foodservice packaging, including molded fiber trays, clamshells, and portion containers. The company has invested in renewable fiber technology and offers products designed for food-contact safety and industrial compostability. For global brands sourcing in China, Huhtamaki provides scale and standardized quality assurance across large-volume food packaging programs.

3. YFY Packaging (Yuen Foong Yu)

YFY Packaging, part of Taiwan's Yuen Foong Yu group, has a significant packaging presence in mainland China. The company supplies paper-based packaging solutions for fresh produce, foodservice, and consumer goods. Its molded pulp product line is used to replace foam trays in fruit, vegetable, and meat packaging, and the company has a long history in paper recycling and circular material use. YFY is particularly noted for its vertically integrated approach, from pulp sourcing to finished packaging, which helps support stable supply for large retail and food chains.

4. Oji Holdings

Oji Holdings, one of Asia's largest pulp and paper groups, operates production facilities in China and has developed molded fiber packaging based on its papermaking expertise. The company supplies protective pulp trays for electronics, household appliances, and food packaging. Oji's strength lies in raw material control and large-scale paper fiber processing, allowing it to produce consistent molded pulp products for industrial buyers with high-volume requirements.

5. Mondi

Mondi is an international paper and packaging group with operations in China and a growing portfolio of paper-based protective packaging. The company has introduced molded fiber solutions for e-commerce and industrial products, focusing on reducing plastic in protective and void-fill packaging. Mondi's product development is aligned with its sustainability roadmap, and it offers customers in China access to global design standards for fiber-based cushioning and transport packaging.

Application Areas and Technical Considerations

Across the five manufacturers, molded pulp packaging is most commonly applied in three areas: food and fresh produce, electronics and appliances, and medical devices. In the food segment, molded pulp trays made from sugarcane and bamboo fiber are used for disposable cutlery, lunch boxes, hamburger boxes, and fresh produce packaging. These applications require moisture control, oil resistance, and compliance with food-contact standards.

For electronics and appliances, molded fiber trays provide shock absorption and vibration

damping. Tonghe's own product documentation notes that anti-static versions can be produced for electronic components and connectors. Customized cavities help secure products during transit, reducing the need for foam and vacuum-formed plastic inserts.

In medical device packaging, molded pulp trays must meet stricter requirements for cleanliness and sterilization. Tonghe states that its medical device trays are made from virgin wood pulp free of fluorescent agents, produced in a clean workshop, and available with material inspection reports. The company also supports EO sterilization compatibility and custom cavities for probes, handles, catheters, and surgical instrument components.

Company Statement

"We transform recycled paper and bagasse fiber into eco-friendly packaging solutions, providing fully biodegradable alternatives to disposable plastic and foam packaging," according to Tonghe Paper Co., LTD. The company states that its factory combines automated production lines with in-house mold development to serve industries such as electronics, lighting, gifts, food, and wine. "Committed to sustainable circular packaging, we cooperate with clients worldwide — exporting to Europe, North America, Southeast Asia and beyond — to deliver cost-effective green packaging and advance low-carbon supply chains."

Market Impact

The shift toward recyclable packaging is opening new export opportunities for Chinese molded pulp tray manufacturers. The EU's 2030 recyclability mandate is particularly significant because it affects a wide range of packaged goods sold in Europe, from fresh produce trays to cosmetic inserts. At the same time, demand for medical device pulp trays is growing at an estimated 8.6% CAGR, according to Mordor Intelligence, driven by hospital plastic bans and sterilization compatibility requirements. Manufacturers with food-grade and medical-grade capabilities are therefore better positioned to serve highly regulated markets.

For procurement teams, the practical considerations include material certification, custom mold lead times, minimum order quantities, and logistics cost control. Tonghe's focus on lightweight construction and stackable designs addresses one of the most common bottlenecks in molded pulp packaging: the volume and weight of shipping. Similarly, the ability to produce irregular shapes in-house gives manufacturers a competitive advantage when supplying premium brand gift boxes or medical device trays that require precise product fit.

Analyst Perspective

Industry analysts note that the molded pulp tray segment remains the largest product category in the global market, accounting for more than 41% of revenue in 2025. This indicates that buyers are not simply replacing plastic with any fiber alternative; they are prioritizing trays that offer structural protection, custom fit, and compatibility with automated packaging lines.

Chinese manufacturers like Tonghe are responding by expanding custom mold capabilities and offering lightweight designs, while international groups such as Huhtamaki and Mondi provide scale and global compliance infrastructure.

Analysts also highlight the regional advantage of China's molded pulp supply chain. Raw material availability, mature mold-making capabilities, and established export logistics allow Chinese producers to serve both domestic and international demand. The growth of medical molded pulp packaging, in particular, is expected to draw more suppliers into clean-room production and sterilization-compatible designs over the next several years.

Closing Outlook

With the global molded pulp packaging market projected to grow from USD 6.2 billion in 2025 to USD 10.2 billion by 2033, the competitive landscape in China is expected to intensify. Buyers evaluating suppliers should consider production capacity, mold development capability, regulatory compliance, and the ability to deliver custom shapes for food, medical, and electronics applications. Companies that can document environmental compliance — such as PFAS-free claims and recyclability attributes — are likely to gain preference among multinational customers.

For a detailed overview of Tonghe Paper Co., LTD's capabilities, contact <https://www.tonghepulp.com>

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