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**STATION:** WBFF (FOX)  
**MARKET:** Baltimore, MD  
**DATE:** 10/08/09  
**TIME:** 10:08 PM  
**PROGRAM:** FOX 45 News at Ten  
**SUBJECT:** New Concerns about Risks Wood Pallets Pose to Nation's Food Supply



**ESTIMATED IMPRESSIONS: 48,482**  
**ESTIMATED PUBLICITY VALUE (per 30 seconds): \$2,194.78**



**Jennifer Gilbert, Co-Ancor:**

Well, wooden pallets can be found in just about every grocery store you go to. Tonight, there is evidence they could be a threat to the food we eat. A study commissioned in the Baltimore area shows that wood pallets can carry some nasty bacteria—bacteria that has the potential of making people very sick.

Crime and Justice reporter Joy Lepola takes a closer look.

*[Begin clip of report by Joy Lepola]*

**Joy Lepola, Reporter (voiceover):**

*[Not shown]* Wood pallets contaminated with bacteria—they can be deadly. Traces turned up of E. Coli, Listeria, and Salmonella.



**Doctor John Cmar, M.D., Sinai Hospital:**

You could get very sick from them, and cause an outbreak of food poisoning. And I think that's what the main concern is here.

**Lepola (voiceover):**

Caught on tape, a scene few consumers ever have a chance to see. More often, produce is



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stacked in stores, with little thought of where it's been. A dirty secret some stores would rather keep quiet.



**Casper Genco, Executive Director, Lexington Market:**

Plastic pallets are definitely better than wooden pallets. The issue is that the plastic pallets, pallets, obviously cost a lot more money.

**Lepola (voiceover):**

Casper Genco manages Baltimore's Lexington Market. He says there is also the issue of theft when it comes to pallets.



**Genco:**

So, you're talking about replacement costs as well as the initial cost.

**Lepola (voiceover):**

The study commissioned on wood pallets was paid for by a company marketing reusable plastic ones. Still, the fact remains, tests performed on random samples of wood pallets found right here in Baltimore came back contaminated. Doctor John Cmar says there are ways to protect yourself.



**Doctor Cmar:**

Making sure that the food that you're buying is well-washed and well-cleaned, before you're actually using it to cook. And of course, also making sure that you're cooking things to the right temperature to make sure that you're killing the bacteria.



**Genco:**

Most of the products that's on pallets are in a container themselves.



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**Lepola (voiceover):**

The study doesn't show any correlation between the wood pallets and bacteria being transmitted to food. Still, it's a potential hazard that does exist.



**Doctor Cmar:**

Most of the time, there typically aren't problems in terms of people having a foodborne outbreak from something like this. But it's better to do the routine usual things, and play it safe.

**Lepola (voiceover):**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are seventy-six million cases involving foodborne illness every year in the United States.

Joy Lepola, FOX 45 News at Ten.

*[End clip]*



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