



B&W outdoor.cases – summary and FAQs

These cases seem to be very well priced; what's the catch?

There isn't one! It's just that B&W products are "Made in China", with Chinese tooling; this generates a considerable cost saving. The plastic is purchased on the worldwide market, probably from the same firms who supply other case manufacturers. B&W outdoor.cases are made with top quality components and do everything you'd expect of waterproof, protective, unbreakable cases. They have an unlimited lifetime guarantee.

I haven't seen them before; are they new?

They're very new to the UK, but have been around in Germany for a few years (where they're designed and developed).

Who are B&W?

B&W International GmbH was established in 1998 as, in effect, the overseas sourcing arm of the bwh Koffer group, a firm established in 1983, based in Hörstel-Bevergen in Westphalia, Germany. bwh is considered to be Germany's premier specialist case maker for both industry and the professions. Both "B&W" and "bwh" are quality approved to ISO 9001:2000.

Give me a quick overview of the range

Most sizes are available as standard in black or orange, but given sufficient volume they can be made in any colour, with a variety of surface finishes, and own branded. The stock range is supplied empty or with 'pluck foam' inserts or black nylon reconfigurable padded dividers. Specialist foam cutting can be arranged.

Do they float?

Of course, especially if the lid's shut! The maximum floating weight of each case is shown on the individual product pages at www.outdoor-cases.co.uk, together with all other important specifications.

Any special features and benefits?

Yes! The three most obvious are these:

2-stage safety catches: B&W make a big feature of their new locking system, a crucial element in case design. The aim is to have a catch which maintains the optimum pressure on the waterproof O-ring seal but is easily released, without any risk of accidental release. B&W reckon that they've solved this problem by placing a safety button out of harm's way behind each catch, (easily operated even with gloved hands), which when depressed allows the catches to spring open to the standard "full leverage catch release stage".

Carrying systems: You'll appreciate being able not only to carry your cases "hands free" but also the ability to keep a tight hold on them in tough conditions. B&W's small and medium sized cases include an innovative shoulder strap system which is integrated into the side of the case, outside the O-ring seal, with no breakable components. They've also developed a backpack accessory to make lighter work of carrying heavy loads. The bigger cases are too awkward and potentially too heavy for shoulder carrying, so they incorporate wheels and an "extend and slide away" handle.

Handle stop: There's no obvious merit in having cases which swing (into your knees, usually) so outdoor.cases handles stop at the vertical. Frequent users of waterproof cases will appreciate considerations of this sort.

Availability

We keep good stocks in the UK, and B&W have a warehouse in Germany. Large "Less than Container Loads" or Full Container Loads are normally despatched ex China; the lead times are relatively short, and there is the potential for very large production runs.

Customisation

Subject to volume it is possible to make these cases in different plastics and in any pantone colour, although some colour shades are generally unsatisfactory to work with. Own brand labels may also be used.

bwh Koffer specialises in precision foam cutting and can advise on the best type of foam to use for a particular project. It is usually necessary for us to send them 'blanks' of the items to be stored so that we can obtain an optimum fit. Once a sample is approved, the foam can be cut in Germany, or in China.

Customisation of any sort will cost extra, but these costs usually prove to be considerably less than anticipated. Please e-mail dorthe@outdoor-cases.co.uk with an outline of your requirements.

Testing

B&W outdoor.cases have passed TÜV's stringent testing regime; this included a period of immersion at 5 metres, a 3 metre fall to concrete, and various compression and operational tests in simulated extreme conditions in the temperature range -40°C to +80°C. There's a short video of this activity on the web site, including footage of a 10 metre drop test onto tarmac.

B&W have analysed the plastics used by the major case manufacturers, and have settled on an "ultra high impact ABS", with a hard surface and a satin sheen finish. The soft surface plastics that some manufacturers use may look as if they'd bounce further than the hard surface plastics, but be assured that this is not true! The downside of using soft surface material is that it's very easily scratched.

Where can I buy these items?

If you'd like to **buy** into this range as an end-user, please visit the Stockists page at www.outdoor-cases.co.uk. For end-user *high volume* purchases, please contact dorthe@outdoor-cases.co.uk. If you're interested in **selling** this range, please e-mail trade@outdoor-cases.co.uk.

UK and international contacts

John Jordan Limited is B&W's UK partner for the distribution of outdoor.cases: Unit 3 Toll Bar, SEDBERGH, Cumbria, LA10 5HA, (T) 015396 21884, (F) 015396 21886.

For more information, please visit www.outdoor-cases.co.uk where there's a Press / Downloads section.

If you are based outside the UK, please visit www.outdoor-cases.com, the B&W International website.

Updated: 17 March 2006