

PERFECT IN FORM

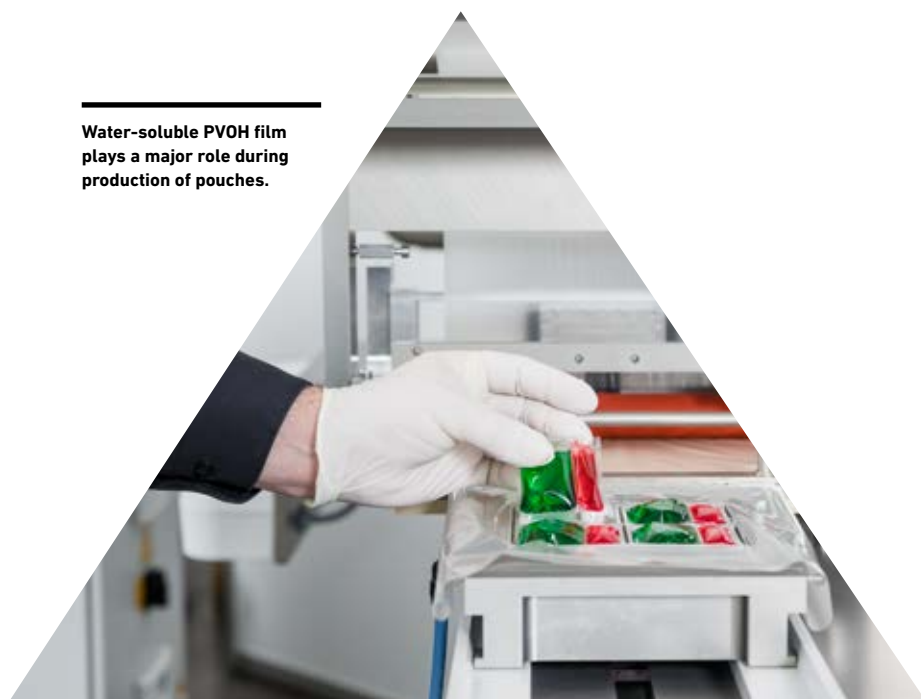
In many households, they already belong to everyday life: pre-portioned units (pouches) for washing machines or dishwashers that are convenient to handle. Quite often they are produced on machines made by Harro Höfliger. "The production steps sound simple: forming, filling, sealing and cutting. But this is misleading. The water-soluble PVOH film used comes with challenges," says Alina Nick, Sales Director Portion Packs.

A current example is the forming of the PVOH film. "Via a vacuum thermoforming process, it is formed into the desired shape," explains the expert. "The application of high heat and a rapid forming process using a high vacuum creates thin areas in the film. This is a real problem because, for the safety of the user, the pouches are supposed to dissolve in water only after a certain time."

As Sales Director Portion Packs, Alina Nick knows the challenges production processes may pose.



Water-soluble PVOH film plays a major role during production of pouches.



This is where Harro Höfliger's special thermoforming method comes into play: "It is based on our patented continuous forming process in which heat and vacuum are optimally coordinated with each other. By heating the film more slowly, it gains elasticity without high temperatures, and the vacuum required is also reduced. Ultimately, this results in more film thickness, even when it comes to complex designs."

Another example for the department's innovative strength is the patented water sealing method: In this process, a print head applies water to the lid film with pinpoint accuracy and in a controlled manner. These water drops start to partially dissolve the film before it is pressed onto the base film for sealing.

Alina Nick summarizes: "With such processes, we not only shape perfect pouches – we also set new standards in this challenging field."