What is claimed is:

1. A container for storing material, the container comprising:

a container body having a side wall defining an opening in the container, the side wall including an upper edge;

a resilient integrally formed lip protruding laterally outward from the side wall at a position vertically offset below the upper edge of the side wall;

a lateral rib protruding laterally outward from the side wall between the container body and the lip;

a lid engaging the container body, the lid including a lid surface spanning the opening and a lid rim projecting from the lid surface, the lid rim including an inner rim surface generally facing the lip, the inner rim surface including a tapered region oriented at an acute taper angle, the tapered region of the inner rim surface deflecting the lip and forming a first seal between the container body and the lid when the lid is closed against the container; and

a latch member protruding from the lid rim toward the container body, the latch member including a latch hook extending from the latch member, wherein the latch hook engages the lateral rib for securing the closure to the container, and

wherein the upper edge engages the lid surface and forms a second seal between the container body and the lid when the lid is closed against the container.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein the lip has a thickness T and protrudes a length L from the side wall, the lip defining an aspect ratio equal to length L divided by thickness T.

3. The container of claim 2, wherein the aspect ratio is between about 6 and about 30.

4. The container of claim 1, wherein:

the side wall includes an uninterrupted outer perimeter; and

the lip extends continuously around the uninterrupted outer perimeter.

5. The container of claim 4, wherein the inner rim surface defines an uninterrupted inner lid perimeter continuously engaging the lip.

6. The container of claim 1, wherein:

the lip includes a proximal end integrally formed on the container body and a distal end projecting away from the container body;

the distal end has a first thickness T1; and

the proximal end has a second thickness T2 which is greater than T1.

7. A method of sealing a container, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a container body including an upper edge and an integrally formed resilient flange having a thickness T and a length L protruding laterally outward from the side wall of the container, the flange protruding from the side wall at a vertical offset distance below the upper edge, wherein the ratio of L divided by T is greater than about two, wherein the container further comprises a lateral rib protruding laterally outward from the side wall;

(b) positioning a lid on the container body, the lid including an annular lid rim having a tapered inner rim surface oriented at an acute taper angle, the lid having an interior closure surface facing the interior of the container body, the lid including a latch member protruding from the lid rim toward the container body and a latch hook extending from the latch member;

(c) engaging the container body with the lid so that the inner rim surface presses against the resilient flange and angularly deflects the resilient flange toward the container, forming an annular first seal between the flange and the inner rim surface and so that the latch hook engages the lateral rib to latch the lid to the container body to maintain sealing pressure between the lid and the flange; and

(d) engaging the container body with the lid so that the upper edge presses against the interior closure surface, forming an annular second seal between the upper edge and the interior closure surface.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A container for storing material, the container comprising:

a container body having a side wall defining an opening in the container;

a lip protruding laterally outward from the side wall; and

a lid press fitted onto the container body, the lid including a lid surface spanning the opening and a lid rim projecting from the lid surface, the lid rim including an inner rim surface generally facing the lip, the inner rim surface deflecting the lip and forming a first seal between the container body and the lid.

2. The container of claim 1, wherein the lip has a thickness T and protrudes a length L from the side wall, the lip defining an aspect ratio equal to length L divided by thickness T, the aspect ratio being greater than about 2.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the aspect ratio is between about 6 and about 30.

4. The container of claim 1, wherein the inner rim surface is oriented at an acute taper angle relative to the lip.

5. The container of claim 1, wherein the lip is integrally formed on the side wall.

6. The container of claim 1, wherein:

the side wall includes an upper edge;

the lip is vertically offset below the upper edge by an offset height H greater than about 0.01 millimeters; and

the upper edge contacts the lid surface, forming a second seal between the container body and the lid.

7. The container of claim 1, wherein:

the side wall includes an uninterrupted outer perimeter; and

the lip extends continuously around the uninterrupted outer perimeter.

8. The container of claim 7, wherein the inner rim surface defines an uninterrupted inner lid perimeter continuously engaging the lip.

9. The container of claim 1, wherein:

the side wall includes a neck defining an opening for accessing the matter;

the lip protrudes laterally outward from the neck;

the closure releasably mates with the neck, the closure including an annular lid rim having an inner rim surface, the inner rim surface including a tapered region oriented at an acute taper angle; and

the tapered region engages the resilient flange, forming a first seal between the closure and the container body.

10. The container of claim 9, wherein:

the closure includes a closure surface spanning the opening;

the neck includes an upper edge;

the lip is vertically offset from the upper edge by an offset height H; and

the upper edge continuously engages the closure surface, forming a second seal between the closure and the container body.

11. The container of claim 1, wherein:

the lip includes a proximal end integrally formed on the container body and a distal end projecting away from the container body;

the distal end has a first thickness T1; and

the proximal end has a second thickness T2 which is greater than T1.

12. The container of claim 1, further comprising:

a latch member protruding from the annular lid rim toward the container body, the latch member including a latch hook extending from the latch member; and

a lateral rib extending from the neck,

wherein the latch hook engages the lateral rib for securing the closure to the container.

13. A method of sealing a container, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a container body including a resilient flange having a thickness T and a length L protruding laterally outward from the side wall of the container, wherein the ratio of L divided by T is greater than about two;

(b) positioning a lid on the container body, the lid including an annular lid rim having a tapered inner rim surface; and

(c) pressing the lid onto the container body so that the inner rim surface presses against the resilient flange and angularly deflects the resilient flange toward the container, forming an annular seal between the flange and the inner rim surface.