

Paper Recycling

Paper can only be recycled 4–6 times as the fibres wear out and lose their paper making qualities.

There are 9 grades of recycled paper and the grade of paper depends on its end use.

Paper that cannot be recycled includes:

- food contaminated paper (e.g. fish and chip wrappers, pizza boxes)
- waxed paper
- oil soaked paper
- carbon paper
- sanitary products or tissues
- thermal fax paper and stickers.

Reduce

Reduce the amount of junk mail that comes through the door—either join the mailing preference service (details over) or write “refused—please remove from your mailing list” and send the item back to Royal Mail—who will forward it on to the company.



Why recycle paper?

Cuts waste disposal costs

Extends the life of landfill sites.

Conserves the environment

Reduces the necessity to import wood pulp.

Saves energy.

Amount of energy needed is less than that needed to make new paper from wood pulp.

Before you bin it:

Re-use envelopes by putting a sticky label over the old address.

Use both sides of a piece of paper.

Swap old magazines with friends and neighbours, or donate to a doctor's surgery.

What happens to paper when it is recycled?

Stage 1

Newspapers and magazines are collected from the paper banks, put into a compactor and baled.

Stage 2

Paper is graded according to quality - higher quality grades get turned into recycled paper

Stage 3

The paper is then transported to the paper mill.

Stage 4

Conveyor belts feed the paper into giant pulpers.

Stage 5

The paper is then washed with water and chemicals to remove the ink and other contaminants.

Stage 6

The soggy paper is then passed through two screens to form a damp paper sheet.

Stage 7

The paper is then dried and cut into giant rolls, which is then sold on.

Fascinating Facts



- One tree can produce 15,000 sheets of A4 paper.
- It takes 15 - 17 trees to make 1 tonne of paper.
- Approximately 50 acres of rain forest are destroyed every minute.
- The average household throws away around 3kgs of paper every week.
- Nearly 5 million tonnes of paper is dumped in landfill or incinerated every year.
- Only 30% of paper is recycled in the UK.
- Using waste paper to make new paper uses 70% less energy than using wood pulp.

Links

Mailing preference service

www.tpsonline.org.uk/mpsr/

You can sign up here to reduce the amount of "junk mail" that comes through the door .

Paper Chain 2000

www.paperchain-recycling.org.uk

A campaign to increase the amount of waste paper and cardboard recycled in the UK.

British Recovered Paper Association

www.recycledpaper.org.uk

Promote, protect and enhance the interests and stature of the UK recovered paper collection