

Recycled Paper Products

Life Wouldn't Be The Same Without Them

Introduction

Since paper products touch just about everyone's life each day, it is especially important that we consider purchasing paper products containing high levels of recycled (postconsumer) content. Postconsumer-content paper products are available in many different forms, including:

- Cardboard packaging
- Mailing supplies
- Chipboard
- Paperboard
- Cellulose insulation
- Office supplies
- Facial tissue
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels and cores
- Napkins, plates, and cups
- Bags
- Toilet seat covers
- Carpet underlayment
- Fire insulation
- Sound proofing
- Art work
- Fire logs
- And many more

These paper products help make our everyday lives much easier, and whether we use them at home or work, we wouldn't consider being without them. When we buy these necessities with high postconsumer content, we get to enjoy the benefits these products bring to our lives while at the same time helping to protect our environment and conserve our precious natural resources.

Packaging Supplies

We all use packaging in some form or another just about everyday. The majority of recycled-content packaging is made from paperboard, corrugated cardboard, or kraft paper. These products can be found with recycled content, including postconsumer content. Look for products such as boxes, padded kraft and paperboard envelopes, shredded cardboard filler, molded paper and cardboard inner packaging, mailing tubes, bakery boxes, grocery bags, and more.

These products can be found at your local packaging supply store and in your local office supply store.

Office Products

Most of us use paper office products at one time or another, whether it's in completing our work on the job, helping the kids with school projects, or just paying the bills and maintaining our home records. An important thing to know is that more and more paper office products are available with postconsumer recycled content. This includes products like file pocket portfolios, hanging file folders, report covers, various storage boxes, file holders, file covers, three-ring binders, mailers, and many more.

Content can range widely depending on the product. Be sure to look for recycled-content products in catalogs or Web site descriptions. Office supplies can be found through small or large suppliers, and may be on contract through your organization's procurement section. Office suppliers offer catalogs both in hard copy and, in many cases, one can go paperless and order through their Web site.

Food Service Products

As you can imagine, enormous amounts of paper are used in the food service industry to produce such products as plates, cups, napkins, towels, egg cartons, waxed produce boxes, carry trays, drink

cup trays, bags, and boxes. All of these products can be purchased with recycled content. Vast quantities of recycled residential mixed paper and newspapers go into making these recycled-content products, especially the molded pulp products like egg cartons, plates, and trays.

Look for these products through your organization's purchasing section—they may already be on contract. Also contact your food service and office suppliers, as well as your local grocery, department and party supply store to see if they offer any of these products. If they don't, ask them to consider stocking them and let them know that you are an environmentally conscious consumer that votes with your dollars.

Janitorial Products

Undoubtedly, janitorial products are some of the most important paper products we use in life and also represent an important opportunity to increase the use of recycled paper. We use tremendous amounts of paper or products such as: toilet paper, toilet seat covers, folded paper towels, rolled paper towels, and facial tissues.

Recycled-content janitorial supplies can be found through your government's purchasing section, janitorial supplier, and some of your local office suppliers. Also check with your local grocery or department store for their product offerings.

Building Products

Paper products have been used in the building supply industry for many years. These products come in many shapes, forms, and applications. As an example, cellulose is a natural insulator.

Cellulose insulation has been used for decades in attics and walls to guard us against the cold.

Postconsumer newspapers can be re-pulped, dried into sheets, layered with an adhesive, and compressed into many different types of building products. One U.S. company has been using

newspaper for nearly a century to make high-density products used in roofing applications and floor decking, and as a fire-stalling product in roof structures. This high-density paper material can also be used as a bulletin board, modular furniture core, and sound barrier product as well.

The facing paper on the surface of gypsum wallboard can have up to 100 percent postconsumer content. Although this is not the main component in wallboard, the facing paper adds up to tremendous amounts of recycled paper being used throughout the building industry.

Does Using Recycled Paper Really Make A Difference to the Environment?

Yes it does! It takes about 17 trees to make one ton of paper. Each year in this country we dispose of millions of pounds of mixed paper. By using recycled postconsumer-content paper, we save millions of trees and millions of gallons of water, as well as prevent the associated air and water pollution, soil erosion, and destruction of wildlife habitat.

All of these good things happen because we do not have to cut down more trees. When you and millions of others use postconsumer-content paper products, you reduce harmful impacts on our environment and help safeguard our precious natural resources. This truly is 'tree'mendous!

So, whenever you purchase paper products, ask for postconsumer recycled-content paper. Remember, demand creates or expands markets for these products and this leads to innovation, greater product selection, and lower prices.

CIWMB Contacts

For more information about the CIWMB Buy Recycled Program, visit our Web site at: www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/ or call (916) 341-6500.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, Flex Your Power and visit www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html.