

Fact Sheet

Cardboard, Paper and Liquid Paperboard

By recycling paper you can save trees, water and energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Recycling process

The paper, cardboard, and liquid paperboard (such as milk and juice cartons) collected for recycling comes from a wide variety of sources including households, businesses and industrial organisations. It is sorted, pressed into bales and transferred to a manufacturer where the bales are shredded and mixed with water, producing separate paper fibers. In the case of liquid paperboard, a de-waxing, or plastic and foil removal process, needs to be undertaken before being turned into paper fibers.

The pulp is passed through cleaning and screening equipment to remove smaller items such as paper clips, staples, plastic and grit, and then treated with chemicals and heat to remove ink and glue. The cleaned pulp is diluted with water and mixed with small amounts of paper making additives. New paper and cardboard products and packaging are then produced, using the same process required to make paper and cardboard from virgin materials.

What can/cannot be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin?



- Newspaper
- Glossy magazines and phone directories
- Junk mail
- Cardboard boxes and general cardboard eg. toilet rolls
- Office paper and other general paper eg. envelopes and scrap paper
- Liquid paperboard eg. milk and juice cartons



- Paper and cardboard heavily contaminated with food or grease eg. pizza box bases and other takeaway packaging
- Tissues
- Wax coated cardboard, eg. fruit boxes

Cardboard and paper recycling tips

- Squash all boxes flat
- Place small paper items into a larger A4 envelope



Did you know...?

It takes 786 million trees every year to produce the world's paper supply. 30 million trees are needed annually for Australia alone.

Australians use more than 4.4 million tonnes of paper every year. Only 11% of Australian office paper is currently recycled – the rest is thrown in the garbage, becoming landfill.

Recycling paper uses about half the amount of energy and water needed to manufacture paper from virgin materials.

Every one tonne of paper and cardboard recycled saves 13 trees, 2.5 barrels of oil, 4,100 kWh of electricity, 4 cubic metres of landfill space and 31,780 litres of water.

Every tree makes approximately 3,077 pieces of A4 size paper.

Paper is one of the quickest of all the materials to decompose; it takes approximately 3 weeks to 3 months to break down.

Source: Planet Ark