



Paper, what would we do without it?

A life without paper is almost impossible to imagine. We write on it, read from it, wrap presents in it, package food in it, decorate homes with it - the list is endless!

In this fact sheet, find out what you can do to recycle your waste (used) paper.

Why recycle?

Recovered paper is a valuable raw material which can be re-used to create new paper and board products. Recovered paper is a raw material upon which the global paper industry relies. This is especially true of the UK paper industry, where 69% of the raw material used is recovered paper.

What can be recycled?

Almost any household paper can be recycled, including: newspapers; cardboard; packaging; stationery; direct mail; magazines; catalogues; greeting cards; and wrapping paper.

It is important that these papers are kept separate from other household wastes. Contaminated paper — paper which is wet or has been mixed with dirt, food residue, other recyclables or debris — is unacceptable for recycling and can have negative impacts on the environmental and carbon benefits of recycling.

Paper Banks

Recovered paper can be taken to a local paper bank, found in a range of sites including supermarkets, car parks, schools, and civic amenity centres.

There are three main types of recovered paper: high grades (letters, envelopes, brochures etc), newspapers and magazines, and packaging. Notices displayed on the banks will tell you what sort of paper is acceptable for recycling. If you are using a car, include a visit to the paper bank during a journey which you are already planning - recycling is easy and effective if it is convenient.

Kerbside Collections

Most Local Authorities operate household systems such as kerbside collection schemes. These work by asking householders to leave their recyclable wastes on the kerbside on specified dates to be collected for recycling.

Most Local Authorities have a Recycling Officer who will be able to provide details of any local recycling facilities or kerbside collections operating in your area. Their details can often be found on the Local Authority website, in the Yellow Pages, or on the Newsprint and Newspaper Environmental Action Group (NNIEAG) website, <http://www.nnieag.org.uk>.



Community Groups

You can turn your recovered paper into a charitable donation by giving it to a local community group for recycling. A volunteer may collect the paper from you to help boost their funds.

Many Local Authorities pass on recycling credits to small groups who collect domestic waste for recycling. Many schools, charities and community groups benefit from these credits through receiving money for every tonne of recovered paper they collect. This can

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be a bonus for fundraising. If you belong to a local community group contact your Recycling Officer for further details.

What happens to the recycled paper?

Once you have placed your paper in a bank or collection bin:

- the paper is collected either by the Local Authority, a Waste Management Company or by a Recovered Paper Merchant;
- the paper is then sorted, graded and delivered to a paper mill;
- having reached the paper mill, it is then 'slushed' with water into pulp and large contaminants are removed. It is then filtered and screened through a number of cycles until it is suitable for papermaking;
- it is then ready to be made into paper. Depending on the quality of paper being produced, quantities of virgin pulp from sustainable sources may be added. Some papers, such as newsprint and corrugated materials, can be made from 100% recovered paper;
- once the paper has been used, it can again be recovered, and the whole process starts again.

If you only have a small amount of recovered paper and think that maybe it isn't worth recycling, remember...

every little counts!

Where can I get more information?

Confederation of Paper Industries

1 Rivenhall Road
Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 7BD
Tel: 01793 889600
Fax: 01793 878700
Website: www.paper.org.uk

PaperChain

1 Rivenhall Road,
Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 7BD
Tel: 01793 889612
Fax: 01793 878700
Website: www.paperchain-recycling.org.uk

Newsprint and Newspaper Industry Environmental Action Group (NNIEAG)

1 Rivenhall Road,
Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 7BD
Tel: 01793 889637
Website: www.nnieag.org.uk

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)

The Old Academy
21 Horse Fair
Banbury, Oxon OX16 0AH
Tel: 01295 819900
Fax: 01295 819911
Website: www.wrap.org.uk

Recycle Now Campaign

Website: <http://www.recyclenow.com>
If you have any questions, you can either ring the Recycle Now Helpline on 0845 331 3131, or drop them an email.

Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)

PO Box 28
Knighton, Powys LD8 2WA
Tel: 01544 267860
Fax: 01544 267860
Website: www.larac.org.uk