



Little can happen in modern life without paper or board.

We depend on this paradoxical material. It can be permanent or transient; delicate or strong; cheap or expensive; in abundance or scarce.

It can decompose in water, yet maps are designed to withstand the weather. Even boat hulls have been made from it.

It can be made and used in the millions of tonnes, or can be so rare that only a few tonnes are produced in a year.



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Introduction

Paper may be impregnated, enamelled, metallised, made to look like parchment, creped, water-proofed, waxed, glazed, sensitized, bent, turned, folded, twisted, crumpled, cut, torn, dissolved, macerated, moulded, and embossed.

It may be coloured, coated, printed, marked and the mark erased. It can be laminated with fabric, plastic and metal. It can be opaque, translucent or transparent.

It may be combustible (fireworks), or be made fire-retardant (NOMEX). It may be a carrier or a barrier or a filter. It may be made tough enough to withstand acid, or soft enough for a baby's skin.

It can be read and worn as a garment. It can be re-used and recycled and it is made from a renewable, sustainable source.

The range of possible uses of paper seems almost limitless. New ways of using it are being devised daily. This evolution will continue because paper is an expression of everyday living.

Look around you now and see how many uses of paper you can identify in your immediate surroundings.

Agriculture

Sacks, seed packets, and animal bedding.

Building

Wallpaper, damp-proof courses, roofing, flooring, flame resistant papers, plasterboard, and decorative laminates for furniture.

Business

Print out sheets, receipts, circulars, catalogues, filing systems, sales and service manuals, brochures, and letter heading.

Cars

Fascia boards, door and roof liners, filters, the Highway Code, and driving licences.

Communications

Writing pads, envelopes, newspapers, magazines, greeting cards, calendars, diaries, telephone directories, labels, business and identity cards.

Domestic Products

Tissues, paper plates and cups, toilet paper, kitchen towels, table napkins, and lampshades.

Education

Books, exercise books, wall charts, flip charts, and report cards.

Electrical

Special insulating boards, electrolytic condenser paper, wrapping and identification for electrical cables, printed circuits, and battery separators.

Entertainment

Menu cards, paper hats, crackers, fireworks, wrapping paper, programmes, playing cards, board games, kites, model aircraft, and race cards.

Filtration

Filters for water, air, coffee, medicine, beer, oil, and mechanical uses.

Impregnated Papers

Polishing, waxing, and cleaning.

Industry

Protection for all manufactured goods, in transport, transfer sheets for decorating chinaware, display boards, point of sale materials and in storage.

Medical

Wrapping to keep instruments and equipment sterile, bandages, first aid bands, clothing for nurses, face masks, surgeons' caps, disposable bed pans, sheets, and pillowcases.

Money; Finance; Security

Bank notes, insurance forms, cheque books, travellers' cheques, postal orders, stamps, cash bags and security papers that contain special markings which are only visible when subjected to ultra-violet light.

