



Paper Recycling Terminology

It is important to use the proper terminology when defining our industry's raw material supply and our products. Inconsistent and incorrect definitions cause a myriad of problems in government regulations. You may hear the following terms when talking about paper recycling and 100% recycled paperboard.

- **Consumer.** Any user of a product for whom it was manufactured.
- **Contaminant.** Any item or material that reduces the quality of paper for recycling or, in large quantities, makes it unrecyclable. Contaminants include metal, foil, glass, plastic, hot melt or pressure sensitive adhesives, food, hazardous waste, carbon paper, waxed boxes, and synthetic fabrics. Collecting paper commingled with other recyclables during the collection process may increase contaminant levels.
- **Corrugated cardboard.** Layers of paper glued together with a fluted inner layer. This is the material used to make corrugated cardboard boxes (the most recycled product in the country).
- **Fiber.** Small pieces of thread-like material that are woven together to give structure and strength to paper products. Fiber used in papermaking comes primarily from wood and recovered paper; cotton is also used to make certain products.
- **Hard mixed paper.** This classification of recovered paper typically includes kraft paper, corrugated cardboard, and office paper—all paper with longer fibers. Paperboard packaging can also be included.
- **High grade papers.** Usually deinked, these primarily include printed and unprinted white papers collected from converting operations, printing plants, and offices.
- **Kraft paper.** Any paper made from sulfate pulp. The "kraft" paper in the stationer's store is simply unbleached paper, presumably made by the sulfate process.
- **Mill broke.** Any paper generated in a paper mill prior to completion of the papermaking process which is unsuitable for end use applications and is subsequently reused in the papermaking process.
- **Mixed paper.** The comingling of various paper grades, such as old mail, paperboard packaging, magazines, copy and computer paper, egg cartons, etc. for recycling.
- **#6 News.** Baled newspaper typically generated from newspaper drives and curbside collections. Prohibitive materials may not exceed 1%. Total outthrows may not exceed 5%.
- **#8 News.** Baled, sorted, fresh newspapers, not sunburned, free from magazines, white blank, pressroom over-issues and paper other than news, containing not more than the normal percentage of rotogravure and colored sections. This grade must be tare-free, and no prohibitive materials are allowed. Total outthrows may not exceed one fourth of 1%.
- **OCC.** An acronym for old corrugated containers.
- **OMG.** An acronym for old magazines.
- **ONP.** An acronym for old newspapers.

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