

Paper, card and carton recycling facts



Did you know that paper as a material can be recycled between four and seven times? Brand new paper has long fibres. This would be your bright white printer paper for example. Each time paper is recycled, its fibres become shorter and shorter. So it might come back as a newspaper for a couple of times, then an egg box or the inside of a toilet roll.

At the end of its life, paper will be recycled into tissue, kitchen roll or toilet paper. These types of paper can't be recycled as their fibres are too short to withstand another recycling.

Once collected and delivered to EnviroSort, the paper, card and cartons are separated from your other recyclables by a machine called a **Ballistic Separator**. It sorts 2D items like paper, card and flattened cartons from 3D items like tins, cans and plastics. This is why we ask for paper, card and paper-based cartons to be flattened but **not to squash tins, cans or plastics**.

Recycling one tonne of paper saves seventeen trees and saves 38% CO₂ compared with manufacturing virgin paper. At EnviroSort, we recycled over 34,737 tonnes of recycled paper, card, cartons and cardboard last year. So we saved 590,529 fully-grown trees that year. That's about ¾ of a tree saved for every person living in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

LET'S WASTE LESS

 Herefordshire Council

 worcestershire county council


severn
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What types of paper products **can't** I recycle in kerbside collection and why?



Paper towels and toilet paper *

Paper hand towels and tissues/toilet paper are a good example of contamination. Although they're made out of paper fibres **they cannot be recycled**. The fibres are not suitable to be pulped and tissues have often been in contact with moisture and organic matter.

Wrapping paper *

Much of today's wrapping paper cannot be recycled due to its shiny, glossy coatings which are contaminants as they can't be removed as part of the recycling process.

Wallpaper *

Wallpaper can't be recycled due to the patterns and coatings added in its manufacture. Wallpaper paste is also a contaminant.



Coffee cups *

Coffee cups cannot be recycled in your green bin collection even if they state they are recyclable as this is only possible if dealt with separately by a specialist reprocessor.

The thin plastic lining that makes them leak-proof is extremely difficult to remove.

As EnviroSort process over 75,000 tonnes of green bin recycling every year, there is not the capacity to handpick these items out.

Greaseproof paper *

The greaseproof paper is made to be fat repellent. The process includes a silicone coating which makes it not recyclable.



Loose shredded paper *

Please don't include loose shredded paper in your green bin. Please place inside a similar material item – this would be a paper bag, an envelope (not padded) or an empty cereal box, then squash it down.

Loose shredded paper is a major contaminant of glass as the pieces are small enough to fall through the gaps in the **Glass Breaker**, a machine at EnviroSort that separates glass.

Loose shredded paper will also blow around our plant and may get stuck in our machines and cause blockages.

Receipts *

Receipts printed on shiny, thermal paper, are not recyclable because they are coated with a substance called bisphenol A (BPA) or bisphenol S (BPS).



Dirty and wet items *

Dirty and wet paper, card and cartons cannot be recycled.

Once paper has got wet, it can't be recycled as the fibres will have been damaged. Food waste, paint or grease are types of contamination that can't be removed.

Any food or product residue left inside cartons may contaminate the other recycling, especially paper. Greasy pizza boxes for example, cannot be recycled as the oil cannot be removed.

*** Items that cannot be recycled or reused must be placed in your black bin.**

EnviroSort

Domestic green bin recycling across Herefordshire and Worcestershire

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