



Did you know?

- There are more than 70 different types of paper produced in Australia including cardboard, packaging, newsprint, plaster board, a range of industrial papers, tissues and printing and writing papers.
- Packaging, newsprint and industrial paper make up more than two-thirds of the paper produced and used.
- Last year, we recycled over two billion newspapers, making us the best newspaper recyclers in the world.
- Not all of the paper used in Australia is made here – more than half of the printing and writing paper used here comes from overseas.
- Recycled paper makes up approximately half of the fibre used in paper production.
- Paper makes up between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of the rubbish taken from houses to the rubbish tip.
- Collecting paper for recycling saves the cities and towns we live in about \$80 million per year in reduced rubbish disposal costs.

About paper and cardboard

The first use of paper dates back to 4,000 years ago when people in China created a type of cloth sheet to record their drawings and writings. Paper from plant fibres was then developed in China in 105 AD by Tsai Lun, an official at the Chinese Emperor's court.

Today there are many different kinds of paper. When considering paper can be recycled many times over, its uses are endless. These are some things paper and cardboard can be made into:

- Cardboard is made into packing boxes and cases for items such as beer, fruit and eggs.
- Daily newspapers are printed on newsprint.
- Plasterboard is used for the walls of houses.
- Industrial papers are made into paper bags and bags to hold cement and chemicals.

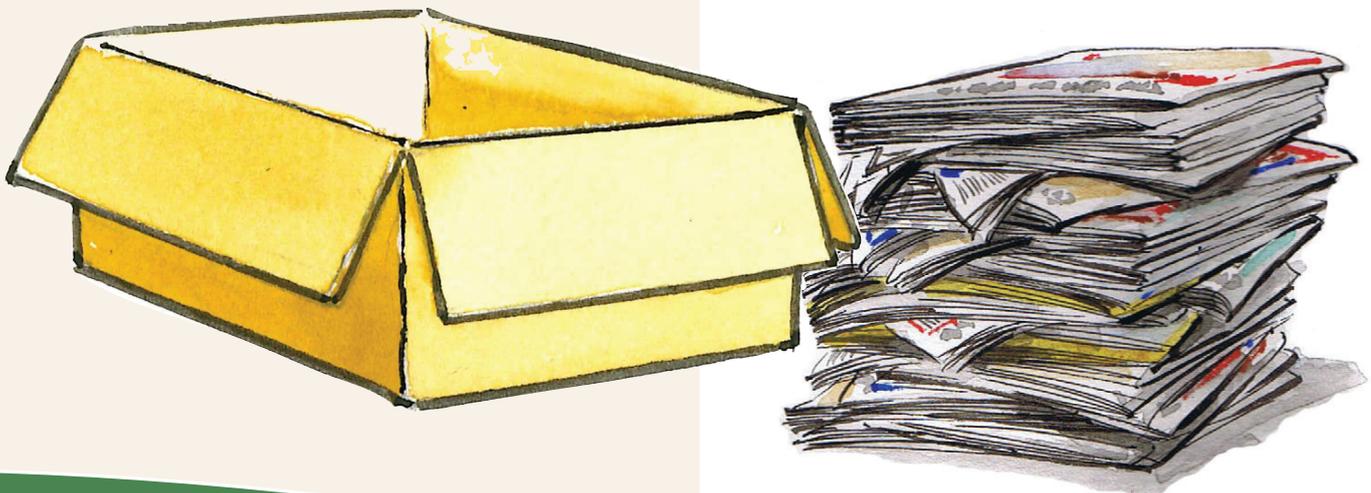
Being Waste Wise with paper

Recycling paper in your school ensures that less paper goes to landfill, where it can break down and produce greenhouse gases. Reducing, reusing and recycling paper also reduces the number of trees that are needed for new paper production.

Reduce

We should all try our best to reduce our paper use at school and home.

- Proofread your work from the computer screen before printing a hard copy.
- Use both sides of the paper in workbooks.
- Make double-sided photocopies when copying multiple pages.
- Set photocopying and printing limits and targets for students and teachers.
- Set your computer to automatically print on both sides of the paper.



- Email newsletters and memos, rather than printing them.
- If you have to print notices and memos, put them in a designated spot for everyone to read,
- If newsletters must be printed, be sure to only print one per family.
- Students can bring containers for their lunches to be delivered by the canteen, reducing paper bag use.

Reuse

Reusing paper is another great way to minimise our impact on the environment.

- Reuse photocopy and pre-used one-sided paper - provide designated trays for collection.
- Make notebooks with pre-used one-sided paper.
- Shred and add to your compost heap or worm farm.
- Open envelopes carefully so they can be used again.
- Donate shredded paper your local pet shop or vet for animal bedding.
- Don't forget to reuse cardboard for costumes and props.
- Cut up pieces of card for flashcards.
- Cut cereal boxes on an angle and use to store magazines.

Recycle

Once our paper has been used on both sides and is no longer needed, the next best thing to do with it is to recycle it so that it can be made into something new. Waste paper can be recycled about five to 10 times before it cannot be recycled anymore. We can't go on recycling the same piece of paper forever, because the fibres break down and cannot form a strong enough "web" to make paper.



Paper is sorted into a range of qualities and types for recycling. There are some differences in the types of paper and cardboard accepted by recycling contractors. When arranging paper recycling contracts, find out who the contractor is specifically for your school and what they can collect.

Recycled paper can also be used for other things besides making new paper. It can be used for fuel, house insulation, building materials (indoors, furniture and walls), as an additive in potting mix for gardening, and insulation in cars and shoes.

Remember to buy products that are made from recycled materials. It is very important to close the recycling loop!

Sources

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