

PAPER RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

Who we are

The Paper Recycling Association (PRA) represents Canadian paper mills consuming recovered paper and board in the manufacturing of newsprint, containerboard, boxboard, and many other papers and boards.

PRA members represent 91% of the Canadian paper and board mills that utilize recovered fibre in more than 41 mills across the country. PRA's mandate is mainly to promote the collection of recovered paper as well as gather and disseminate data on recovered paper usage in Canada.

Members of the Paper Recycling Association

- [AbitibiBowater Inc.](#)
- [Atlantic Packaging Products Ltd.](#)
- [Cascades inc.](#)
- [Domtar Inc.](#)
- [Kruger Inc.](#)
- [Minas Basin Pulp & Power Co. Ltd.](#)
- [Norampac Inc.](#)
- [Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation](#)
- [Sonoco Canada](#)
- [Tembec Inc.](#)
- [White Birch Paper Company](#)



Position Paper on ONP Quality

Canadian paper mills, members of the PRA, are experiencing problems with the quality of recovered Old Newspapers (ONP) available in the market place, due to a gradual degradation in terms of the specifications of recovered ONP.

Click here for press release [Position Paper on ONP Quality](#) - November 4, 2002.

Position Paper on Supplier Certification

To ensure that mills continue to source the quality of fibre needed to manufacture their products, the PRA members will favour buying recovered paper from certified suppliers (ISO or other certification) or from suppliers who can guarantee that their fibre quality consistently meets the agreed

specifications.

Click here for press release [Position Paper on Supplier Certification](#) - September 25, 2003.



Overview of the Recycling Industry

Recycling may be a relatively new phenomenon in some communities, but it has been a paper industry tradition in Canada for 200 years from the time when paper was made from rags. In 1805, linen and cotton rags were collected in Montreal and Québec City then shipped to Canada's first paper mill in St. Andrew's, Québec to be used in the production of newsprint and wrapping paper.

Today, the Canadian paper industry is committed, whenever economically feasible, to using as much as possible recovered paper. More than 70 mills across Canada require high-quality fibre, free of contaminants, in sufficient quantities to meet their annual production needs.

In 2006, the industry transformed 4.8 million tonnes of old newspapers, magazines, corrugated containers, communication papers, boxboard (cereal/shoe boxes, etc.) and other grades of paper into new newsprint, containerboard, boxboard, communication, kraft and sanitary papers, as well as construction papers and boards.

Some 2.8 million tonnes or 59% of this recovered paper came from Canadian sources; the balance was imported primarily from the United States.

In 2006, the Canadian industry recovered approximately 49% of the paper and paperboard consumed in Canada and transformed it into new paper and paperboard products. The table below shows the industry's increasing use of recovered paper and underscores the commitment of Canadians to recycle their old paper and board.

Printed, old and over-issue newsprint (ONP), as well as old corrugated containers (OCC) make up the largest portion of the recovered paper consumed in Canada. Together, they account for over 78% of the 4.8 million tonnes of recovered paper consumed in 2006.

UTILIZATION RATE 000s TONNES

Year	Recovered Paper Consumption	Divided by: Paper & Board Production	Equals Utilization Rate
1980	1 126	13 468	8.4%
1985	1 421	14 425	9.9%
1990	1 845	16 547	11.2%
1991	2 101	16 568	12.7%
1992	2 761	16 594	16.6%

1993	3 527	17 571	20.1%
1994	3 997	18 337	21.8%
1995	4 087	18 713	21.8%
1996	4 379	18 455	23.7%
1997	4 518	18 968	23.8%
1998	4 686	18 722	25.0%
1999	4 953	20 168	24.6%
2000	5 018	20 762	24.2%
2001	4 891	19 632	24.9%
2002	5 053	20 073	25.1%
2003	4 946	19 969	24.8%
2004	4 863	20 463	23.8%
2005	4 785	19 539	24.5%
2006	4 831	18 228	26.5%

Source: PPPC

Because Canada has a relatively small population compared to the United States and the industry exports three-quarters of its production, Canadian recycling mills will always have to import recovered paper to meet their requirements. The U.S. is the industry's largest customer and it makes sense that the Canadian industry looks to the U.S. as a continual source of recovered paper. However, more used paper can be recovered in Canada.

A successful recycling program is dependent upon securing markets for the recovered paper. The market can be a mill using recovered paper to manufacture recycled-content paper and paperboard or a paper stock dealer and/or waste hauler acting as an intermediary between the municipality and the consuming mill. There are hundreds of dealers across Canada who purchase recovered paper, remove contaminants, and process it for shipment to consuming mills. A list of such dealers can be found in the *Yellow Pages* under "Recycling" or "Waste Paper".

Generally, recovered paper is carefully separated by grade - old newspapers, office papers, old corrugated containers, etc. - to ensure that the paper's economic value is preserved.

The quality of recovered paper is a critical element in any successful recycling program. The paper must be free of contaminants such as food, plastics, metals and wax. The presence of these contaminants results in higher costs to the recycling mills, municipalities and paper stock dealers.

Recovered paper can be collected at curbside or depot, from office buildings, retail stores, and other locations. It is then transported to a central processing facility or directly to recycling mills.

RECOVERY RATE 000s TONNES

Year	Domestic Receipts	Plus: Recovered Paper Exports	Equals: Recovered Paper from Domestic Sources	Divided by: Canadian Paper & Board Consumption	Equals: Recovery Rate
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1980	791	113	904	4 560	19.8%
1985	993	190	1 183	5 057	23.4%
1990	1 321	257	1 578	5 723	27.6%
1991	1 493	259	1 752	5 534	31.7%
1992	1 739	231	1 970	5 646	34.9%
1993	2 019	231	2 250	5 980	37.6%
1994	2 198	313	2 511	6 473	38.8%
1995	2 229	465	2 694	6 558	41.1%
1996	2 272	568	2 840	6 458	44.0%
1997	2 423	688	3 111	6 840	45.5%
1998	2 491	577	3 068	7 005	43.8%
1999	2 675	503	3 178	7 629	41.6%
2000	2 768	564	3 332	7 869	42.3%
2001	2 825	357	3 182	7 956	40.0%
2002	2 844	553	3 396	8 012	42.4%
2003	2 698	689	3 137	7 878	43.0%
2004	2 642	1 008	3 650	8 115	45.0%
2005	2 621	1 128	3 749	8 092	46.0%
2006	2 843	994	3 837	7 813	49.1%

Source: PPPC

Updated: September 18, 2007

Grade Definition

Listed below are the general definitions for the various types or grades of recovered paper consumed by Canadian paper mills. These definitions are to be used as a guide only. Actual transactions with the consuming mills are conducted using more detailed specifications published by the **Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.** (1325 G Street N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C., USA 2005-3104, Fax: 202.626.0900).

NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers, special news (including de-ink quality), over-issue news, and white blank news.

MAGAZINES

Dry coated magazines, catalogues, mixed mechanical, coated mechanical sections, and flyleaf shavings.

PULP SUBSTITUTES

Unprinted bleached papers and boards.

OFFICE PAPER

Dry papers typically generated by offices (including computer printout) containing primarily white and coloured woodfree paper.

CORRUGATED

Corrugated boxes, kraft paper, and kraft paper bags generated from supermarkets and/or industrial or commercial facilities, which have been sorted to be free of plastic and wax.

BOXBOARD

Containers of solid fibre, including cereal boxes, shoe boxes and protective paper packaging for dry foods. Also includes folding paper cartons, set-up boxes, and similar boxboard products.

MIXED PAPER

Consists of a mixture of various qualities of paper, not limited to type of packing or fibre content.

OTHER

Specialty grades as glassine, carbon paper, and those containing wet strength, polycoatings, hot-melt glue, etc.



How to become a member

Membership in the PRA is open to any company which consumes recovered paper in the manufacturing of papers and paperboard.

To learn more about the services offered and how your company can join the Paper Recycling Association, please contact us (see coordinates below).

Contact at the Paper Recycling Association:

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