

HOW IS PAPER RECYCLED?

Because it's biodegradable, paper is one of the **easiest materials to recycle**.

Making "virgin" paper requires more resources than making recycled paper, but cost depends on quality. For example, less energy is needed to manufacture newsprint than fine stationery.

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

Paper recycling begins with our used paper, whether we drop it off at a recycling center or leave it for curbside pick-up. After the paper is **collected and sorted**, it's baled and sent to a paper mill, where the transformation begins.

The used paper is combined with water and chemicals and then re-pulped. The pulp is then screened, cleaned, de-inked and refined until it can be **made into new paper products**, including newsprint, tissue, cardboard, packaging, and office items.

In **seven days**, a newspaper can go through the entire recycling process and emerge as recycled newsprint.

FUN FACT:

Around 200 BCE, the Chinese made the world's first piece of paper using recycled material—**old fishing nets!**



CAN PAPER CONTINUE TO BE RECYCLED?

Paper can be **recycled up to 7 times**. Each time the individual wood fibers get shorter and flatter, eventually becoming too brittle for papermaking. So a piece of paper can have approximately "seven generations" of usefulness.

Fortunately, most U.S. paper mills **use some recovered fiber** in the production of new paper and paperboard, and our forest products industry plants **five new trees** for each one harvested.

And thanks to the responsible forestry and recovery practices of many U.S. companies, the standing timber in our forests is **up by almost 40%** since 1950, and by 10 million acres since 1990.

Web Source:
<http://www.tappi.org/Bookstore/Public-Outreach/Earth-Answers/How-Is-Paper-Recycled.aspx>



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