

# Paper & Cardboard Recycling

The recycling process for paper and card is very similar. The quality of recycled paper has benefited from great improvements in paper making technology over the last three decades and many recycled papers are indistinguishable from non-recycled equivalents.

## The Recycling Journey

### Stage 1:

You put your paper and cardboard into the appropriate recycling container, or in bring banks, and these are then collected from your kerbside or local recycling centres/points.

### Stage 2:

The paper and cardboard is taken to a sorting facility where it is baled and then sent to a paper mill for reprocessing.

### Stage 3:

At the paper mill, the material is inspected for quality before being pulped in a large tank containing water and chemicals, which separate the various fibres. The material then goes through tiny screens to remove any debris, such as sticky tape or staples.

### Stage 4:

The fibres are then put in a large floatation tank where they are cleaned and de-inked several times, with the fibres getting whiter each time. Whitening agents are also added and the pulp, which at this stage is 99% water and 1% fibre, is then fed into a paper machine.

### Stage 5:

The paper machine removes the water and the pulp is squeezed between rollers. At the end of the process, the paper is pressed between two stainless steel rollers which give it a smooth surface for printing. It is then passed through a sensor and then cut into appropriate widths, wrapped and dispatched in large rolls.

### Stage 6:

The recycled paper is then sold to companies that make newspapers and magazines and it eventually finds its way back onto the shelves, where you buy them and start the process again.

## Did you know?

- Paper and cardboard make up around 18% of the contents in an average household bin.
- Each family in the UK uses the equivalent of six trees per year, including paper, cardboard, directories, magazines, newspapers and packaging.
- Recycled paper uses 30% to 70% less energy than making new paper and far less water too.
- It takes only 7 days for a recycled newspaper to come back as a newspaper again.

