

# Why Recycle Paper?

Paper recycling has been around a long time. In fact, the first paper ever was made from used materials. Read below to find out more.

## Paper Is Everywhere

Paper is part of our everyday life. We read magazines and books printed on paper. We do homework and create artwork on paper. Paper bags hold our groceries. The cards, letters, and boxes we send and receive are paper. So is the cup that holds our favorite hot drink as well as the poster hanging on the wall. We even blow our noses on paper tissues! Did you ever wonder where paper comes from?

Paper is made at a paper mill. The first paper mills were built in China more than 2,000 years ago. Workers shredded recycled (used) rags and cloth to make paper. In 1690, William Rittenhouse built the first paper mill in the United States. American mills soon began making paper using the fiber from trees instead of old cloth. In addition to wood fiber, modern mills use recovered paper and wood chips to make paper.

Recycling has always been part of papermaking. Recycling refers to the process of using old items to make new products. When used paper is collected, it is taken to a paper mill, mixed with water, and made into a pulp. The pulp is cleaned, pressed, dried, and rolled to make new paper. The new paper is made into new products, like cereal boxes, newspapers, and construction paper.

Today, more than 50 percent of the paper used in the United States is recovered for recycling. You can help by collecting paper according to the rules in your community. Recycling helps keep paper out of landfills. And that's good for the environment.



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## Questions

- What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
  - Paper is part of our everyday life.
  - Books are printed on paper.
  - Recycling is good for the environment.
- "In 1690, William Rittenhouse built the first paper mill in the United States." This sentence is
  - The main idea of the second paragraph.
  - A supporting idea of the second paragraph.
- Paper can be made from
  - Wood fiber
  - Rags
  - Recovered paper
  - All of the above
- Today, more than \_\_\_\_ percent of the paper used in the United States is recovered for recycling.
  - 15
  - 50
  - 55
  - 100
- What is the author's purpose in this passage?
  - To inform the reader about the history of paper
  - To inform the reader about recycling
  - To encourage the reader to recycle paper
  - All of the above

