

just the facts



Corrugated Cardboard

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WHAT IS IT?

Corrugated boxes are used for packing, storing and transporting products to factories, warehouses, retail stores, offices and homes. Corrugated boxes are also known as old corrugated cardboard (OCC) if the boxes have been deposited into a recycling bin. Cardboard is the most widely recycled of all packaging materials. Corrugated boxes have a fluted, corrugated medium layer (rippled layer), sandwiched between layers of linerboard.

WHERE CAN YOU RECYCLE CARDBOARD?

Corrugated cardboard can be recycled at depots, in municipal curbside collection programs and through private recyclers. Waxed or contaminated corrugated cardboard (cardboard covered with grease, oil, paint or other materials) is not recyclable and should be placed in the garbage.

QUICK FACTS

10,000 tonnes of corrugated cardboard were recycled in 1996 by GVRD residents - 10% of what they generated.

106,000 tonnes of corrugated cardboard is recycled by GVRD businesses every year.

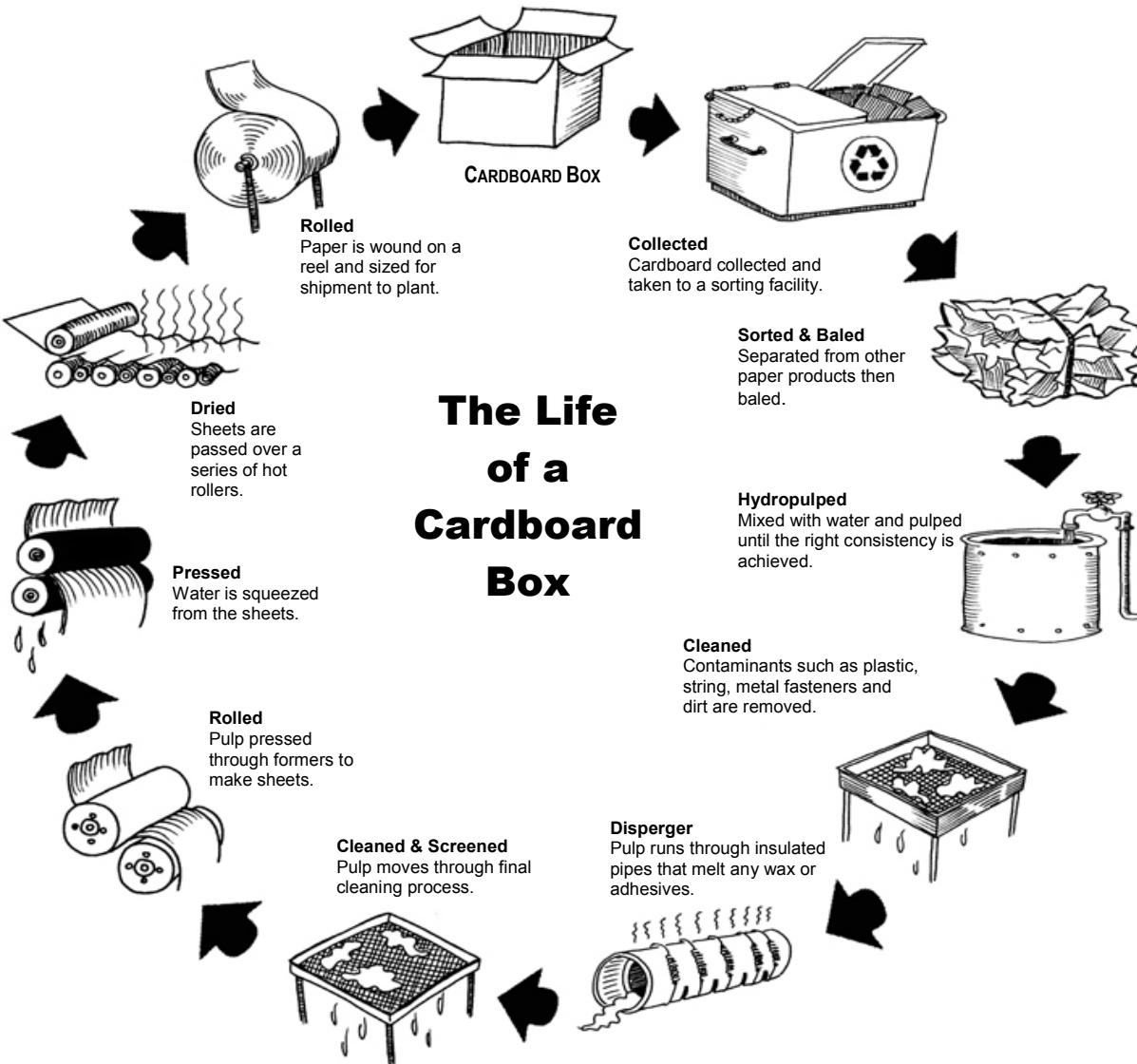
30 - 90 kg/m³ is the density of uncompact corrugated cardboard. When compacted, the density increases to 180 - 300 kilogram per cubic metre.

65% was the average amount of recycled content of corrugated cardboard boxes shipped in Canada (in 1998) up about 20% from ten years ago.

77% of the corrugated cardboard boxes used in Canada are recycled or reused, according to the National Packaging Survey (1996).

More than 97% of the inks used for printing on corrugated cardboard boxes are water-based and non-toxic.

The Life of a Cardboard Box



just the facts



WHO GENERATES CORRUGATED CARDBOARD?

- residents
- schools
- retail stores
- warehouses
- restaurants
- other businesses

WHAT IS CORRUGATED CARDBOARD RECYCLED INTO?

- new boxes
- boxboard (cereal boxes, laundry soap boxes, gift boxes, tissue boxes and the like)
- gypsum wallboard liner
- roofing felt (used in home renovation and building)
- kraft paper (for bags and wrap)
- tubes
- core board (used by manufacturers for tissue toweling, giftwrap and packaging materials)

WHAT ARE CONTAMINANTS?

Contaminants include wax coatings, plastics, food, garbage, metal fasteners, staples, and nails. Contaminated corrugated cardboard can affect the functioning of the machinery and can result in poor quality paper. It also results in increased waste, higher maintenance costs and increases risk to processing equipment.

WHERE IS IT PROCESSED?

Crown Packaging, located in Burnaby, B.C., is the only corrugated cardboard consuming mill in the province. This mill uses corrugated cardboard to manufacture gypsum wallboard liner, boxboard and the middle corrugating medium (the ripple part) in corrugated cardboard. The material from this mill is shipped to gypsum wallboard manufacturers and box plants.

As an energy source, 90 per cent of the steam the Crown Packaging mill uses comes from the GVRD Incinerator located adjacent to the mill site.

Corrugated cardboard is also processed in mills located in Ontario, Quebec, Washington, Oregon and overseas in Korea and China.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF CARDBOARD?

Like any recyclable commodity, the market price fluctuates. The factors that affect the price of corrugated cardboard include mill capacity, the general provincial and national economic health, expanding recycling programs (such as the municipal blue box programs) and material bans.

WHY IS CORRUGATED CARDBOARD BANNED FROM GARBAGE DISPOSAL IN THE GVRD?

Corrugated cardboard was banned from disposal facilities in 1998 because the recycling infrastructure is solidly in place and there are recycling programs. Municipal recycling programs (depots and curbside pick-up) are accessible to residents. Private companies offer cardboard recycling to businesses.

Tips.....

REDUCE

If you normally shop for groceries and pack your purchases in boxes, take cloth bags or reusable containers instead.

REUSE

- Build a kids' playhouse (appliance boxes).
- Create crafts such as airplanes, doll cribs, robots or mobiles.
- Use boxes for storage – clothes, mementos, moving, camping gear, magazines.
- Save boxes for wrapping gifts when required – you can decorate the box with ribbons or leftover paint.
- Find new uses for boxes that saves you money such as turning a box into your desk-side recycling container at your home office.

RECYCLE

Ensure that you remove any contaminants and excessive tape. Flatten and place in the appropriate recycling container or take to a depot.

Sources

CH2M Hill Engineering Ltd. (Vancouver, B.C.)
January 1993
Greater Vancouver Regional District Waste Flow & Recycling Audit

Crown Packaging, B.C.

EPA Web site

Paper and Paperboard Packaging Environmental

www.ppec-paper.com

RECYCLING QUESTIONS?
call the RCBC Recycling Hotline at 604-732-9253 or 1-800-667-4321

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