

just the facts



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Newspaper

WHAT IS IT?

Newspapers are printed on newsprint. Other uses for newsprint include advertising inserts, flyers, newspaper supplements and telephone directories. According to the Pulp and Paper Dictionary, newsprint is defined as "a grade of paper combining high percentages of groundwood and/or mechanical pulps made especially for the printing of newspapers."

WHERE CAN YOU RECYCLE NEWSPAPER?

Residents can recycle old newspapers through municipal curbside collection programs or local recycling depots. Businesses may have newspapers picked up by private recyclers.

QUICK FACTS

In 1989 there was only one mill capable of making recycled-content newspaper – today there are over 25 in Canada.

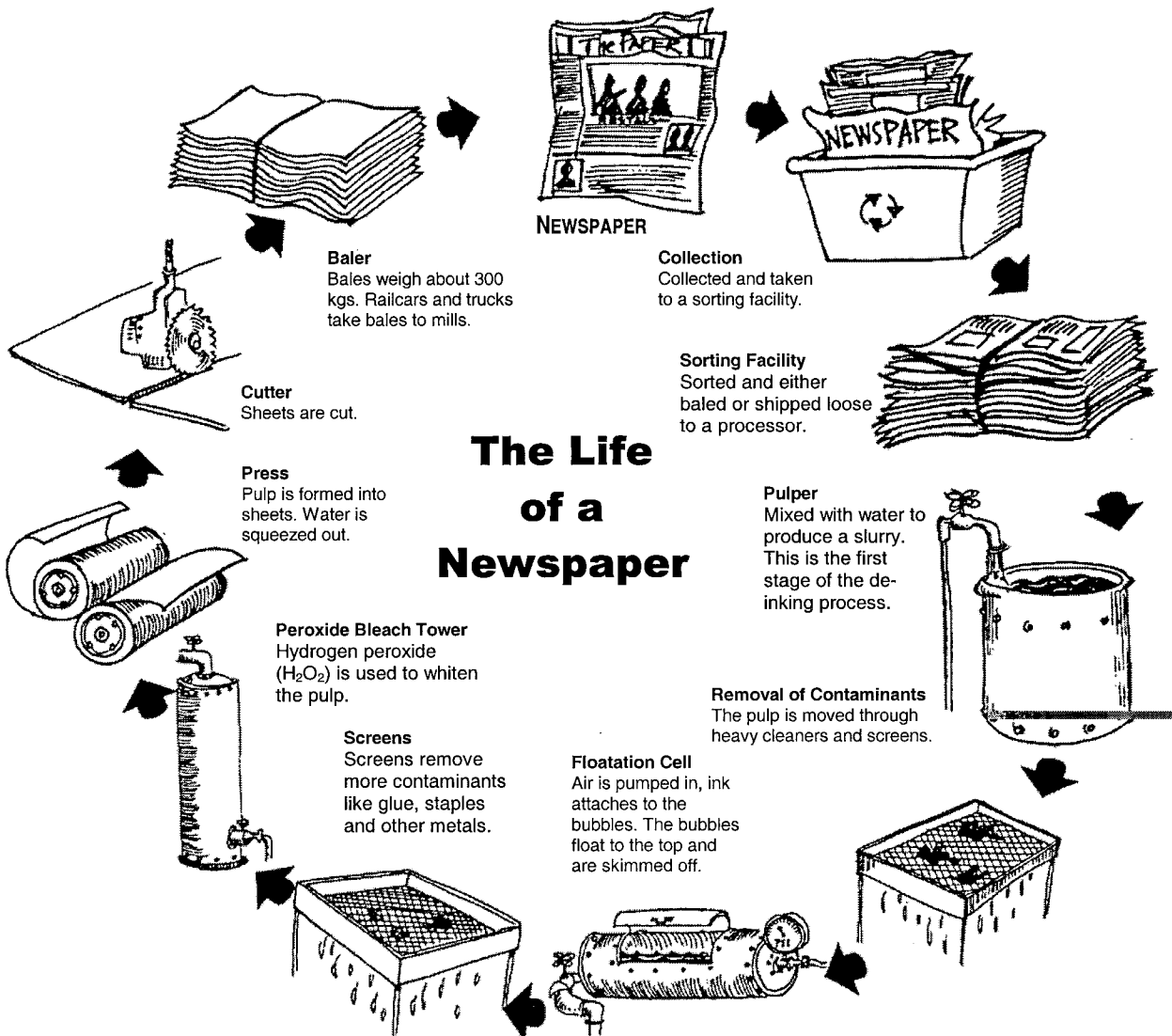
2,000,000 copies of the Sun and Province, made of 10% recycled content, are printed each week for Lower Mainland readers.

In 2000, 91,000 tonnes of paper were recycled in the GVRD.

15 de-inking plants exist in Canada including one in Coquitlam, B.C..

4 times is the maximum number of times a paper fibre can be recycled, so virgin pulp is always required. Paper fibres gradually break down with every trip through the pulping process.

70,000 standard size newspaper pages are made from one metric tonne of newsprint.



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WHAT IS OLD NEWSPAPER RECYCLED INTO?

- newsprint for newspapers, inserts and flyers
- telephone books and directories
- cereal boxes, shoe boxes, laundry soap boxes
- tissues, paper towels, household paper products
- animal bedding (a substitute for straw)
- insulation
- printing and writing paper
- construction and building materials such as roofing felts
- molded pulp products (egg cartons)
- middle layer of cardboard boxes

WHAT ARE CONTAMINANTS?

Newspaper must be free of contaminants and debris to produce a high-quality end product. Plastic bags, staples, paper clips and glues are contaminants.

WHERE IS IT PROCESSED?

Newstech Recycling (Coquitlam, B.C.) is the only newspaper recycling mill in the province. This mill uses old newspaper to manufacture pulp. Pulp is produced and shipped to companies that use the recycled paper to produce new newsprint, telephone directory paper and other paper products.

HOW DOES INK IMPACT THE PROCESS?

There are two types of inks used in the printing process: oil-based and water-based inks. Each type of ink has different properties that affect the de-inking process used to recycle paper.

Water soluble inks (flexographic) have much smaller particle sizes than oil-based inks. The images are sharper and the colour is clearer. However, because the inks are water soluble, they are difficult to remove from the de-inking process. As the soap bubbles rise up through the pulp water, the inks do not attach to the bubbles. The pulp requires additional wash cycles to clean away all the ink.

The de-inking process used by Newstech is designed primarily for oil-based inks and as such uses less water in the de-inking process.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF OLD NEWSPAPERS?

The largest market for recycled newspaper is the newspaper industry. The next largest market is the paperboard industry, which produces packaging for cereal, laundry, shoes, crackers, soaps and other similar boxes. Old newspaper is also exported, primarily to newsprint and linerboard mills in the Pacific Rim.

One tonne of old newspapers is worth approximately the same as 150 weekend copies of the Vancouver Sun.

WHY ARE OLD NEWSPAPERS BANNED FROM GARBAGE IN THE GVRD?

Old newspapers were banned from disposal in landfill on November 1, 1998 to meet the Solid Waste Management Plan goal. There is a well established newspaper recycling industry in B.C. and recycling programs for residents and business. The GVRD only bans materials from disposal when end markets and recycling systems are well established.

Tips.....

REDUCE

- Share subscriptions with co-workers.
- Subscribe to get a newspaper delivered only if you read it every day, otherwise purchase one only when you need/want to read it.

REUSE

Newspapers can be used for:

- wrapping gifts
- bedding for a worm compost bin
- paper mache and other art projects.

RECYCLE

Remove contaminants such as plastic bags, elastics or metal bands, or any product samples before placing newspaper in the recycling container.

Sources

Canadian Newspaper Association
www.ena-acj.ca

Canadian Pulp and Paper Association
www.cppa.ca

CH2M Hill Engineering Ltd.

1993 Greater Vancouver Regional District
Waste Flow and Recycling Audit

Newstech, Coquitlam, B.C.

Pacific Press, B.C.

RECYCLING QUESTIONS?

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

Other Just the Facts available:

Aluminium
Composting
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