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RECYCLING OF PRINTED PAPERBOARD

All paper and paperboard recycling processes result in a shortening of fibres such that the tear strength of board produced using such fibre is reduced – consequently there is a limit to how much recycled material can be combined with virgin fibre to make a new quality board.

Because of this, most recycled paper is used together with virgin fibre in substrate liners and backing sheets - face surfaces are predominantly virgin fibre.

Generally, printing inks have only a minor influence on the recyclability of printed paper board due to the relatively low film weights used. Similarly oil-based varnishes are readily recycled due to the low film weights applied.

UV cured and water based coatings and inks are a little more difficult to recycle – both being acrylic based they tend to perform similarly in repulping processes i.e. they break up into fine fragments, most of which separate from the substrate and can be floated off, but leaving a small amount of coating residue bound to the paper fibre. This type of residue, if embedded in a face stock for printing would produce a print defect and so this type of material is only ever used in backing sheets.

In conclusion, all printed paper is capable of being recycled. There is a slight difference in the scrap value of paperboard printed with different ink types.