

# What happens to my recovered...?

## . . . Cardboard and Paper

Most recovered paper is recycled back into paper and paperboard products. With a few exceptions, recovered paper is generally recycled into a grade similar to, or of lower quality than, the grade of the original product. For example, old corrugated boxes are used to make new recycled corrugated boxes. Recovered printing and writing paper can be used to make new recycled copy paper.

Recovered paper can be used in a variety of other products as well. Recycled pulp can be molded into egg cartons and fruit trays. Recovered paper can be used for fuel, ceiling and wall insulation, paint filler, and roofing. Nearly 100,000 tons of shredded paper is used each year for animal bedding. Even cat litter can be made from recovered paper!

## . . . Glass

Once the glass is color-sorted and cleaned of contaminants, it is crushed into cullet and added to other raw materials to make new glass. When a glass container is recycled, the resulting new glass is just as strong and as high in quality as glass made without cullet. Glass containers can be recycled again and again.

## . . . Plastics

The variety of products made with recycled plastics is growing. Here are just a few examples of the most commonly recovered materials:

- Recycled PET can be used in producing deli and bakery trays, carpets, clothing and textiles.
- Recycled HDPE can become bottles for laundry products, recycling bins, agricultural pipe, bags, motor oil bottles, decking and marine pilings.
- Recycled LDPE can be used to manufacture bags, shrink film and compost bins.



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### **. . . Steel**

Steel, including used steel cans, appliances, automobiles and construction materials, are recycled by steel mills into every ton of new steel produced. Bridges, guard rails, road signs, fire hydrants, residential and commercial construction materials, appliances, cars, trucks, back hoes, desks, file cabinets and cans are some of the many steel products that contain recycled steel and, just as importantly, are recyclable again at the end of their useful lives.

### **. . . Aluminum**

Sources for aluminum include used beverage containers (UBC), windows and doors, appliances and other products. Recovered aluminum forms a closed-loop scrap source that recycles aluminum back into new product. For example, aluminum recovered from UBCs is recycled back into new cans.

### **. . . Wood**

Recovered wood is used for products you use everyday-from home gardening to furniture and home construction. Recovered wood is used to make engineered wood products and composites (largely for furniture construction), mulch, compost, energy, and for many other consumer goods.



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