

# Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center

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### **Paper Products Recovered Materials Advisory Notice: Student Intern Summary**

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Internship Summary

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Paper Products Recovered Materials Advisory Notice

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued an advisory notice, the Paper Products Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN), concerning the recycling and reuse of paper products. This notice makes both the public and federal government aware as to what products are or can be produced with salvaged materials and recommendations are given to the government as to how to recover these materials. This action, using government purchasing to promote growth and stabilize markets for recovered paper, will then hopefully encourage paper recycling.

As requested by the public there are also definitions for "postconsumer fiber," "recovered fiber," and "mill broke." These are defined as follows. Postconsumer paper is paper that has passed through its end-usage as a consumer item including such things as old newspapers, old magazines, mixed waste paper and tabulating cards. Also, paper recovered from municipal solid waste such as paperboard and fibrous wastes are considered postconsumer paper.. It does not include fiber retrieved from printers' over-runs, converter's scrap, and over-issue publications. Materials that must be re-pulped and can be counted toward the total amount of content recycled in paperboard or paper is the definition of recovered fiber. Examples of recovered fiber are envelope cuttings, bindery trimmings, and other waste paper materials that result from the constructing, cutting, and converting of other paper making operations. Mill broke is the paper waste materials manufactured in a paper mill before completion of the paper making process. By EPA recommended content standards, these are items that would not be considered as either total recycled content or postconsumer content.

Discussed in the Paper Products (RMAN) also, are suggested amounts of consumer tissue products, newsprint, carrier board, corrugated containers, and industrial/commercial tissue products used in recycled items. The EPA advocated content levels for such products can be found in the following tables.

In these tables, the percentages are based on the fiber weight of the product and the content levels found in the tables should not be read as follows: X% recovered fiber plus Y% postconsumer fiber.

Instead the tables should be read as: X% recovered fiber including Y% postconsumer fiber (e.g. if 20% in both columns, EPA is recommending equal amounts of recovered fiber and postconsumer waste).

RECOMMENDED RECOVERED FIBER CONTENT LEVELS FOR UNCOATED PRINTING AND  
WRITING PAPERS

Item	Recovered fiber (%)	Postconsumer fiber (%)
reprographic paper (e.g., mimeo and duplicator paper, high-speed copier paper, and bond paper).....	20	20
offset paper (e.g., offset printing paper, book paper, bond paper).....	20	20
tablet paper (e.g., office paper such as not pads, stationery, and other writing papers).....	20	20
forms bond (e.g., forms, computer printout paper, ledger).....	20	20
envelope paper:		
wove.....	20	20
kraft:		
white and colored (including manila).....	10-20	10-20
unbleached.....	10	10
cotton fiber paper (e.g., cotton fiber papers, ledger, stationery, and matching envelopes, and other writing paper).....	20	20
supercalendered.....	10	10
machine finish groundwood.....	10	10
papeteries.....	20	20
check safety paper.....	10	10

RECOMMENDED RECOVERED FIBER CONTENT LEVELS FOR COATED PRINTING AND  
WRITING PAPERS

Item	Recovered *fiber (%)	Postconsumer fiber (%)
coated printing paper.....	10	10
carbonless.....	20	20

RECOMMENDED RECOVERED FIBER CONTENT LEVELS FOR BRISTOLS

Item	Recovered fiber (%)	Postconsumer fiber (%)
file folders (manila and colored).....	20.....	20
dyed filing products.....	20-50.....	20
cards (index, postal, and other, including index sheets).....	50.....	20
pressboard report covers and binders.....	50.....	20
tags and tickets.....	20-50.....	20

RECOMMENDED RECOVERED FIBER CONTENT LEVELS FOR NEWSPRINT

Item	Recovered fiber (%)	Postconsumer fiber (%)
newsprint.....	20-100.....	20-85

RECOMMENDED RECOVERED FIBER CONTENT LEVELS FOR COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

SANITARY TISSUE PRODUCTS

Item	Recovered fiber (%)	Postconsumer fiber (%)
bathroom tissue.....	20-100.....	20-60
paper towels.....	40-100.....	40-60
paper napkins.....	30-100.....	30-60
facial tissue.....	10-100.....	10-15
general purpose industrial wipers.....	40-100.....	40

RECOMMENDED RECOVERED FIBER CONTENT LEVELS FOR PAPERBOARD AND

PACKAGING PRODUCTS

Item	Recovered fiber (%)	Postconsumer fiber (%)
corrugated containers:		
(<300 psi).....	25-50.....	25-50
(300 psi).....	25-30.....	25-30
solid fiber boxes.....	40.....	40

folding cartons.....	100.....	40-80
industrial paperboard (e.g., tubes, cores, drums, and cans).....	100.....	45-100
miscellaneous (e.g., pad backs, covered binders, book covers, mailing tubes, protective packaging).....	90-100.....	75-100
padded mailers.....	5-15.....	5-15
carrierboard.....	10-100.....	10-15
brown papers (e.g., wrapping paper and bags).....	5-40.....	5-20

RECOMMENDED RECOVERED FIBER CONTENT LEVELS FOR MISCELLANEOUS PAPER

PRODUCTS

Item	Recovered fiber (%)	Postconsumer fiber (%)
tray liners.....	100.....	50-75

These recommendations, however not written into law, are endorsed by the federal and state governments and followed by the recycling companies located in the United States