

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on Paper Recycling

Question: Can lottery scratch off tickets and Pull-tabs be recycled as paper?

Answer: Yes! They go in the mixed paper boxes and bins.

Question: Can envelopes be recycled?

Answer: Yes! They go into mixed paper boxes and bins because of the adhesive (glue) on the flaps—even if the color of the envelope is white.

Question: What about envelopes with a plastic window? Can they be recycled?

Answer: Yes! They go into mixed paper boxes and bins due to the plastic—even if they are white in color.

Question: I've heard that frozen food boxes such as packaging on Lean Cuisine and Health Choice frozen dinners cannot be recycled due to the type of paper of which they are made. Can they be placed in the paper recycling boxes and bins?

Answer: Yes! All of these boxes can be recycled as mixed paper, provided they do not have food on them.

Question: Can the wrappers that reams of copy paper come in be recycled as paper?

Answer: Some ream wrappers have a plastic vapor barrier sprayed on them that contaminates the paper bales. There are many different kinds of paper wrappers. To test the reams you need to put some water on the wrapper and rub it in. If it goes completely thru, indicating it doesn't have any plastic, then it is recyclable. If you rub the water in and then see a piece of plastic on the wrapper, then its trash and not recyclable. *If the wrappers are recyclable they can go in the mixed.* If your work area is not already purchasing one of these products, one good source of paper that comes in recyclable wrappers is Boise-Aspen 30 (forest green color on packaging).

Question: Some people in our office are curious about who handles the paper from the recycle boxes. Can you tell me who collects and shreds the paper?

Some people are very hesitant to use the boxes until they know this, due to the sensitivity of the information that they are recycling.

Answer: The paper is picked up by fulltime staff and shredded by them at the State Government Paper Recycling facility off of Holmes Street. They have made special accommodations for the State Office Building in consideration of the types of documents that are picked up there. Only fulltime EEC staff is handling the documents that are picked up at the SOB. Their management has

personally spoken with Jerry McCarty, Director of Processing and Enforcement with the Department of Revenue, and he is aware of the state government recycling procedures at the SOB. The State Government Recycling Section currently shreds paper for all state government agencies including KSP, CHFS, which includes documents protected by HIPPA, Ky State Treasurer, Ky National Guard and many others having very sensitive information.