

Life of a CARDBOARD BOX

Did you know that cardboard is used to ship 90% of all products? And that percentage only seems to be growing. Boxes are the lifeblood of the packaging and shipping industry, and it is important to stay educated on how the material is constructed and why it should be reused or recycled to protect our environment. Detailed below is life of a cardboard box, all the way from the forest > to a box > through the recycling process.

FIRST, TREES ARE CUT DOWN AND PAPER IS MADE.

1
Trees are transported to a paper mill.



2
Mechanical and chemical pulping methods are used to create paperboard and corrugated cardboard.

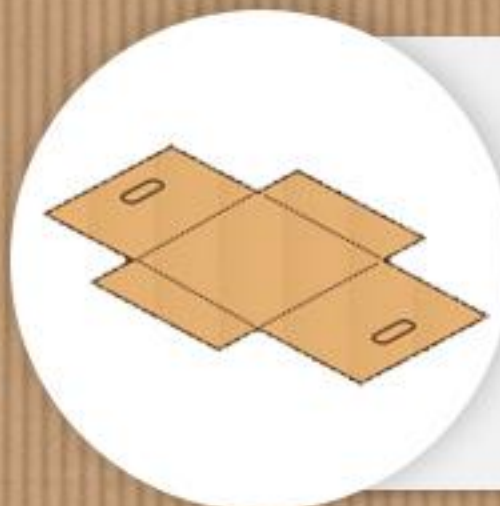
3
The outer layers of the box are typically made from softwood pulp.



4
The fluting, the wavy layer on the inside of the cardboard, is manufactured using a corrugated machine.

SECOND, A BOX IS DESIGNED.

1
The different layers of board are pressed and glued together to create the cardboard box.



2
Hand holes and flaps are trimmed and glued on the boxes.

3
A variety of box sizes and styles are produced to fit the consumer's needs.



4
The cardboard boxes are ready to be sold.

LAST, THE BOXES ARE RECYCLED.

After the cardboard is used, it should be recycled. The process is simple and includes these 5 steps:

1
The company or consumer gathers the materials that need to be recycled.

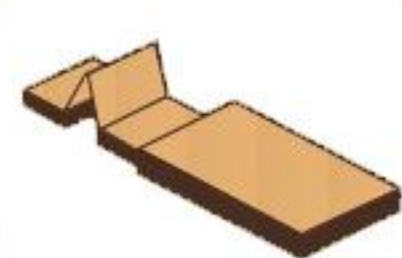


2
Cardboard is sorted by boxboard and corrugated once the materials arrive at the recycling centre.

3
The materials are soaked in a mixture that breaks down the fibers and creates a pulp.



4
The pulp is filtered and stripped in order to get rid of any foreign materials and dyes.



5
Pulp is mixed with virgin materials, then dried and formed into solid sheets.

Local recycling centres will accept the most common types of cardboard, including those used for shipping, and they may even offer curbside pickup. You can also drop the cardboard off at recycling centres.

A FEW WAYS CARDBOARD CAN BE REUSED



GET CRAFTY

Cardboard can be used to craft anything from gift boxes, homemade post cards, napkin rings, stylish storage, cat toys, coasters, party decor, or even wall art. Here's a craft idea that will make any child's dream come true - construct a life-size fort out of cardboard boxes.

STAY ORGANISED

Boxes are designed for storage or secure transportation from one place to another. Why not reuse boxes for storage in your home? Smaller boxes can be used to organize things like office materials, snacks in the pantry, books, or toys with multiple pieces. Larger boxes are great for long-term storage and organization in the garage, basement, or other cluttered areas in your home.



USE IT AS A GARDENING TOOL

Cardboard is also a very useful tool in the garden. When it is mulched it can be used to bulk and ingurgitate excess water in soil, or otherwise known as composting. Cardboard is also capable of creating a barrier against weeds. Lay a few pieces in problem areas and the weeds won't be able to grow through the material.

When cardboard is broken down in a landfill instead of being recycled, it creates methane, a major greenhouse gas that impacts global warming negatively. This is why it is critical that we continue to reuse and recycle cardboard in smart and environmental ways.


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