

Corrugated Packaging: An Environmentally Friendly Choice

In 1856, corrugated material was first patented in England as sweatband lining in men's tall hats. Over the years, it was improved upon and new uses were found for it. In 1894, the first double-faced corrugated cardboard box was developed for deliveries in New York City and with the invention of corrugated machinery one year later, the use of corrugated packaging picked up steam. Although, there have been many advancements since those early days, corrugated continues to be a popular choice for packaging.

Today, one popular reason for the use of corrugated material for packaging over many others, which probably wasn't a consideration in the 19th century, is that it is inherently environmental friendly. It is manufactured using a renewable resource, and it is recyclable and can be manufactured using recycled content, which reduces the impact on the solid waste stream.

Renewable

With more than 750 acres of forests in the United States and more than 3 million new trees being planted daily, total forest area has been relatively stable for the past 100 years and from 2007 to 2012, it grew by roughly 2 million acres.¹ From these statistics, it is clear to see that corrugated packaging comes from an infinitely renewable resource.

At Jamestown Container, 96 percent of all corrugated boxes are made with material supplied by certified fiber sourcing programs such as Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and American Tree Farm System (ATFS). This is what makes corrugated fiber-based packaging the sustainable choice.

Recyclable

The industry first established a paper recovery goal to advance recycling in 1990, and since that time, recovery has doubled. Although some plastics and other materials used in packaging are recyclable, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, more paper (by weight) is recovered for recycling from municipal solid waste streams than glass, plastic, steel and aluminum combined. In fact, with regard to paper packaging, about 29 million tons (nearly three-quarters of all packaging materials) are recovered annually. The corrugated packaging/kraft papers recovery rate was 92.9 percent in 2015.¹



Jamestown Container recovers approximately 95 percent of the post- industrial corrugated waste generated during the manufacturing process. This waste is baled and returned to paper mills for recycling.

Recycled Content

At Jamestown Container close to 90 percent of the all the corrugated we convert is 100 percent recycled, 99 percent post-consumer waste. This is due to our primary corrugated sheet supplier, Niagara Sheets, obtaining the vast majority of their paper from our Greenpac Mill and RockTenn's Solvay Mill. Both mills are state-of-the-art and only manufacture 100 percent recycled liner board and medium from OCC (old corrugated containers).

1. Sustainability (2016), retrieved from the **Responsible**package: <http://www.theresponsiblepackage.org/sustainability>

