

PaperlinX is committed to environmental sustainability which includes the use of recycled fibre. In 2003/2004, 10% of Australian Paper's fibrous raw material was from recycled sources. PaperlinX uses this material to create numerous high-quality recycled products, including office and specialty papers.

PaperlinX's recycled products / Wastepaper Recycling

Australian Paper, a subsidiary of PaperlinX, offers a range of recycled or partly recycled products. These include:

- Renew 80 office paper – 80% recycled
- Renew 100 office paper – 100% recycled
- Reflex 35% Recycled 80gsm – 35% recycled
- Xerox Green wrap office paper – 50% recycled
- Postspeed – 60 - 100% recycled
- Onyx – 100% recycled
- Tudor RP laser – 100% recycled
- Prologue laser – 100% recycled

Recycling at the Shoalhaven Mill

PaperlinX's Shoalhaven Mill has been Australia's leading manufacturer of high-quality recycled papers for more than 35 years. Its de-inking plant, built in 1979, was until recently, the only one in the country.

The recycling processes at Shoalhaven Mill are constantly being developed and expanded to ensure that the mill continues to lead fine-quality recycled paper production. For example, Shoalhaven is the only mill in Australia with the technology to recycle milk and fruit juice cartons into fine paper grades.

In 1994, the mill's capacity was expanded significantly to around 100 tonnes a day. In total, more than 30,000 tonnes of waste paper are processed at Shoalhaven Mill every year. That accounts for approximately half of the fibre used at the mill.

In fact, Shoalhaven consumes almost all of the suitable waste paper available to Australian Paper for manufacturing fine papers. This makes it unnecessary to run recycling operations for fine paper grades at other mills.

Recycling at the Maryvale Mill

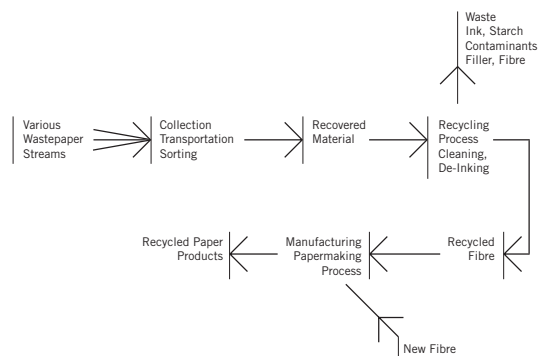
PaperlinX also has recycling operations in place at Maryvale Mill. Here, up to 55,000 tonnes of waste paper products is turned into cardboard and other brown packaging papers.

Responsible choice of fibre sources

PaperlinX recycles waste from both pre-consumer and post-consumer sources collected from around Australia. Drawing a distinction is not useful: regardless of the source, if the waste paper were not recycled it would be thrown out. Recycling is clearly the superior option, whether the paper happens to have reached the consumer stage or not.

It is also more costly to collect, clean and re-use post-consumer waste. Using pre-consumer waste as well helps to keep quality high and prices low, making recycled paper a meaningful option for consumers.

Wastepaper Recycling



Recycled and new fibre are both needed

While recycled fibre sources play an essential role in PaperlinX's manufacturing processes, new fibre must constantly be added to the process. Research has shown that paper can only be recycled about five times before its fibres start to break down and must be augmented with new fibre.

De-inking and pre-processing

Nobody wants recycled office paper that is grey and full of specks. The Shoalhaven Mill has processes in place to ensure that its recycled products are of consistently high quality.

De-inking is carried out during the re-pulping processes. Detergents and alkali are used to help detach any ink from the paper's fibre as it disintegrates. This ink is then washed away to effluent treatment.

Paper from milk and juice cartons do not require de-inking, as the ink is applied directly to a laminated polyethylene film. It is necessary to remove this film. This is carried out separately from the de-inking process, and the two waste streams are combined afterwards for further processing.

The future

PaperlinX continues to look for new sources of sustainable waste paper and ways of utilising recycled fibres in their range of products.



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For more information please visit
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Shoalhaven is the only mill in Australia with the technology to recycle milk and fruit juice cartons into fine paper grades.

In total, more than 80,000 tonnes of waste paper products can be processed by PaperlinX every year.