

SEPARATING AND RECYCLING WASTE PAPER THE RIGHT WAY

Information from Steinbeis Papier GmbH

According to a survey by Statista, 74 per cent of German households separate their waste at home and on the go. 21 per cent dispose of their waste properly at home. And 4 per cent still do not recycle - they ignore waste separation altogether. The correct separation of waste is an important step towards protecting the environment and conserving resources. Waste paper is a valuable raw material that can be recycled to make new paper and other products. To ensure that waste paper can be recycled effectively, it is important to know which materials belong in the waste paper collection and which do not.

What belongs in waste paper?

- Newspapers and magazines: Newspapers, magazines, periodicals and catalogues can be disposed of in waste paper without hesitation.
- Office paper: Writing and photocopying paper, letters, notepads and other paper from everyday office life belong in waste paper.
- Cardboard and paperboard: Cardboard packaging, such as shoe boxes, gift packaging (without plastic coating), empty food packaging (without plastic coating and food residue) and cardboard boxes should also be disposed of in the waste paper bin.
- Wrapping paper, provided it is not coated.
- Books: Old books, paperbacks and hardcover books, unless they can be reused or donated, should be disposed of as waste paper.
- Envelopes: Paper envelopes can be thrown into the waste paper bin.
- Egg boxes can also be disposed of here.

What does not belong in waste paper?

- Sanitary paper: Handkerchiefs, kitchen roll, napkins and other hygienic papers should not be disposed of in waste paper as they are often contaminated with dirt, oils or other substances.
- Composite materials: Materials that consist of paper and other substances and cannot be easily separated, such as drinks cartons, do not belong in waste paper.
- Packaging materials: Plastic packaging, bubble wrap, polystyrene and other packaging materials should not be disposed of in waste paper.

- Soiled paper: Paper contaminated with food, paints or other substances should not be recycled. It can reduce the quality of the recycled paper.
- Thermal paper (receipts), tickets or carbonless paper do not belong there.
- Coated film paper, wet-strength and impregnated paper or wallpaper should be disposed of in the residual waste.

Important information on waste paper recycling

- Ensure that the waste paper is as clean as possible and not heavily soiled. Therefore, remove food residues or large amounts of glue, for example.
- Separate packaging materials, such as plastic film, from waste paper before throwing it into the waste paper bin.
- If possible, leave packaging/cardboard in large pieces so that they can be separated more easily later in the waste paper sorting process.
- In some cases, there are special recycling programmes for certain types of paper, such as confidential documents or stationery.

Properly separating and recycling waste paper can actively contribute to protecting the environment and conserving resources. Every single separation measure makes a big difference and helps to preserve the paper cycle. The exact rules for waste paper separation can vary from region to region.