Netherlands Institute
for Sustainable Packaging
part of **verpact**

Background document

Recycle Check Paper and Cardboard Packaging 2026



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Background Document Recycle Check for Paper and Cardboard Packaging 2026
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The Recycle Checks are updated annually. Check the website of the Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging (KIDV) for the latest version.

For questions about a Recycle Check, please contact the KIDV.

The KIDV would like to thank the trade organisations, material and packaging manufacturers, manufacturers and importers of packaged products and sorters and recyclers for contributing to this Recycle Check. The KIDV has created this document with the utmost care and attention. Should the document nevertheless be incomplete or contain any inaccuracies, please let us know.

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Netherlands Institute
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Part I:
Basic information

1. Introduction

The Recycle Checks (published since 2019) enable companies to relatively easily and quickly assess whether packaging is easily recyclable. In recent years, Recycle Checks have been published for rigid plastic packaging, flexible plastic packaging and packaging made of paper and cardboard, glass, metal, and beverage cartons.

The Recycle Checks are based on the current system of collecting, sorting and recycling packaging materials in the Netherlands. The processes examined are those used to process the largest tonnages of household waste stream: what happens to packaging after a consumer disposes of it at home and how is this (household) waste processed in the sorting and recycling plants? Local initiatives, market developments or innovations may affect the recyclability of packaging. The KIDV monitors these developments and changes in the market as closely as possible. The Recycle Checks are updated in close conference with the relevant chain parties if and when new developments apply to the majority of the packaging released on the Dutch market.

The Recycle Checks apply to packaging that is discarded as waste by households, offices, shops and the catering industry. The Recycle Checks are also used for packaging collected through the system for returnable packaging for which consumers have paid a deposit.

In the Netherlands, municipalities themselves determine how residents should dispose of their waste. Glass and paper/cardboard are separated at source. So-called PMD packaging (plastic, metal, beverage cartons) can be collected using source or post-collection separation.
With separation at the source, residents are asked to perform the initial sorting step themselves by discarding PMD separately in a bin or bag. Everything else is residual waste. Post-collection separation means that residents dispose of all their waste in the same bin or bag. After being collected by the municipal waste collection service, a specialist organisation further sorts the waste to separate material with recycling potential. Milieu Centraal's Waste Separation Tool is a handy tool to check in what bin each type of waste must be deposited.

1.1 The Recycle Check.

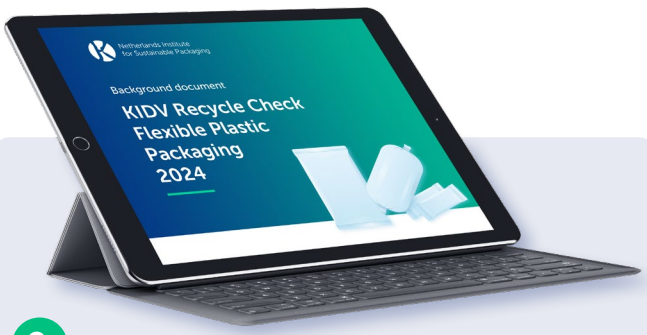
The Recycle Check consists of two parts:



1

The online Recycle Check checklist serves to assess the recyclability of the packaging (optimal, reasonable, limited or non-recyclable). The contents of the Recycle Check were updated in September 2025.

Optimal | Reasonable | Limited | Non-recyclable



2

The **background document**, consisting of two parts:

Part I: basic information about how to use the Recycle Check, definitions and concepts and information on determining disposable units. This part is the same for all documents.

Part II: material-specific information about collection, sorting, and recycling processes, as well as instructions on how to assess certain properties of packaging components. The background document can also be used as a source of reference with guidelines to improve the recyclability of packaging. The documents are available for the following materials:

- Flexible plastic
- Rigid plastic
- Paper / cardboard
- Glass
- Metal
- Beverage cartons

Part II starts on page 24.

The KIDV website also features **tools** to help you do the Recycle Check, such as Guidance on the Use of Recyclate, and guidance around determining colour. Also take a look at the **Packaging Glossary** for a list of the most frequently used terms and their definitions. These documents may be updated throughout the year.

1.2 Legislation.

The Recycle Check and accompanying documents take into account, wherever applicable, the European and national legislation in force at the time of publication. On 22 January 2025, the new packaging regulation, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), was published. The specifics of this still need to be elaborated further, and it is expected that they will be announced in 2027. If the PPWR gives reason to do so, the Recycle Check will be adjusted. Further information about the PPWR is available on the **Verpact website**. This information will be updated throughout the year.

Essential Requirements

When placing packaging on the Dutch market, it must, at the time of writing, comply with the so-called **Essential Requirements** from the Packaging Management Decree ('Besluit Beheer Verpakkingen'). Please monitor the website for updates on this legislation.

The Essential Requirements stipulate that the environmental impact of packaging must be minimal. This is recorded in a product file, which must also include an explanation of how material can be recovered. The **KIDV Recycle Check** answers several of the questions from the associated standard. Use the results of the Recycle Check, as well as related specifications and other explanatory information, and add them to the product file.

The PPWR will also ask for such information, so it would be smart to start working on it ahead of time, so as to comply with current legislation and be well prepared for future legislation.

1.3 Food safety.

Food packaging may contain various chemical substances. When such packaging comes into contact with a product, substances from the packaging can migrate into the food. This may pose risks to human health. Some substances are prohibited (e.g. almost all PFAS), while other substances can be used under certain conditions (e.g. BPA). The KIDV offers various tools to support producers and importers of packaging and packaged products in assessing their packaging materials in this area. Please see the **food safety dossier** for more information.

1.4 Exceptions.

A number of product-packaging combinations may not be collected with household packaging waste because they can seriously disrupt the process, or cause unsafe situations. In this case, consumers can dispose of the packaging by an alternative route. The Recycle Check will then not apply.
There are two reasons why packaging should be collected separately:

- Packaging material creates problems in the process
- The product that was packaged in the packaging creates problems in the process

Packaging materials that cause problems

Most material streams contain packaging materials that may disrupt the sorting and recycling process, including the following:

- **EPS (polystyrene)** is difficult to process during the sorting and recycling stages, as the small static plastic spheres cause a lot of nuisance. Small EPS packaging such as cups and trays must be placed in the residual waste. Larger EPS crates and buffer material should be taken to a municipal recycling facility. The material can then be processed further by a recycler.
- **Wooden packaging:** there is no separate collection system for wooden packaging materials, such as wine boxes. Small wooden packaging can be disposed of with residual waste, and larger pieces should be taken to a municipal recycling facility.
- **Plastic (fruit) nets** often get stuck in the systems during the sorting of plastics. This causes them to disrupt and contaminate sorting systems. These nets must, therefore, be placed in the residual waste.
- **Ceramic, stone, and porcelain** are often deposited in bottle banks by consumers, which is not where they belong. These materials are not glass and are not collected as a separate stream in the Netherlands, but they go with the residual waste.
- **Bio-degradable** disposable units containing compostable plastics can have a major impact on recyclability, even if they end up in the mixed stream. The **Yes/No** lists for the separation of plastic, metal and beverage cartons at source state that compostable plastic packaging must not be disposed of with plastic, metal, and beverage carton waste. For more information, read the KIDV fact sheets on **bio-based** and **bio-degradable** packaging.

Product inside the packaging that causes problems

Small chemical waste consists of a list of hazardous substances that are released in small quantities from households, such as certain cleaning products, alcohol and medicines. Properly emptied packaging for medicines and small chemical waste may be disposed of with household packaging waste, but if the packaging is not completely empty, it and its contents must be disposed of separately via the recycling facility or pharmacy. This does not apply to empty buckets or packaging that once contained silicone, paint, latex, and cement; these should be disposed of with residual waste.

Clearly indicate on the packaging where the product may or may not be disposed of, so consumers do not dispose of the residual product via residual waste or flush it down the drain.

Example

An empty glass jar of skin cream or perfume bottle is not considered to be small chemical waste and may be disposed of in the bottle bank, while a jar that contains or contained a remnant of medication (e.g. antibiotics) does constitute small chemical waste and must be taken to a recycling facility or pharmacy.



Figure 1. Glass bottle containing medication

Milieu Centraal's Waste Separation Tool helps consumers figure out what bin to deposit the different kinds of packaging into. On www.recycleklaar.nl, you can check whether or not your packaging can be disposed of in the plastic, metal, and beverage carton (PMD) waste stream.

2. Recyclability and fee modulation

2.1 Definition of recyclability

The recyclability of packaging is partly determined by whether and to what extent it can be collected, sorted, recycled and reused. In addition, there are recycling targets for the various materials. While these are two different things, they are still related.

- **Recyclability** concerns the extent to which packaging or a disposable unit can be processed by the current system of collecting, sorting, and recycling, and how the raw material can be reused. Packaging can be non-recyclable, poorly recyclable, moderately recyclable or highly recyclable. It is an assessment of the disposable unit that looks at how likely it is that the packaging will have an optimal passage through the recycling process, looking at the specific design of that disposable unit. As a basis for that assessment, the KIDV uses the efinition given in the box below.
- **The recycling target** is a legal target that concerns the amount of material that must be collected, sorted and recycled after it has been placed on the market. For most materials, a larger percentage of packaging – of what has been placed on the market in the Netherlands – must be recycled each year.

Packaging must meet four basic criteria to be deemed to be recyclable:

1. The disposable unit must be made in such a way that it can be collected or picked up by approved waste collectors.
2. The disposable unit must be sorted and/or bundled into pre-defined streams for recycling processes.
3. During the recycling process, the material* is processed on an industrial scale** and is reclaimed into a raw material.
4. Recovered raw material has a uniform composition*** and is used to produce new packaging or products.

The extent to which these four basic criteria are met can be assessed using the Recycle Checks. A Recycle Check assesses whether the disposable unit is optimal, reasonable, limited or non-recyclable (see paragraph 2.2).

* *Depending on the material of the main component in the disposable unit, the amount of target material that can be recovered has to be above a certain minimum for the recycling process to make packaging highly recyclable, which is determined for each Recycle Check.*

** *Industrial scale means that more than half of the disposable units entering the market end up at recyclers and there is sufficient recycling capacity to recycle the sorted material within Europe.*

*** *Uniform composition means that the recyclate offers predictable and consistent quality as a new raw material and is used in a new product or packaging.*

The aim of the Recycle Checks is to help companies make their packaging (more) circular. The vision set out by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation serves as the basis for this endeavour:

> *'A circular economy is one that is restorative and regenerative by design and aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times'*
>
> MacArthur, 2015

This commitment to circularity underpins the definition of recyclability developed by the KIDV, as mentioned above.

2.2 Categories of recyclability

In the checklist, we distinguish between optimal recyclable, reasonable and limited recyclable, or even non-recyclable packaging. The lowest score has the greatest weighting in determining the overall score. The coloured borders designate the following categories:

Non-recyclable
This qualification is used for packaging that contains a disruptor, i.e. materials that severely disrupt the recycling process and lead to the material stream being rejected.

Limited recyclable
Packaging that cannot be easily recycled because it, for example, ends up in the mixed stream (a mixture of various kinds of materials) after sorting. The material remaining after recycling has limited applications, because it contains components that (severely) disrupt recycling and are difficult to remove.

Reasonable recyclable
Packaging that requires an additional processing step before it can be classified as 'highly recyclable'. While this type of packaging does end up with the recycler as a homogeneous stream, there is something in its composition that somewhat affects the quality of the recyclate or the effectiveness of the process*.

Optimal recyclable
All properties of this type of packaging are optimally suited for recycling, making it 'highly recyclable' according to the aforementioned definition from the Recycle Check.

2.3 Fee modulation (for plastic packaging)

Are you required to pay a waste management contribution to Verpact? If you are, make sure you check whether your packaging qualifies for a **modulated fee**.

In 2024, Verpact introduced Fee Modulation 2.0, which incentivises highly recyclable **plastic packaging** and the use of recyclate. This applies to all packaging containing more than 50% plastic by weight that does not qualify for other fee reductions. A distinction is made between rigid packaging and flexible packaging, each of which has its own starting fee.

Plastic Fee Modulation 2.0 differs from its predecessor (in force since 1 January 2019) in that it also rewards minor improvements. There are four conditions that each entitle parties to a discount of 10 cents on the starting fee, and since 2025, a 20-cent discount for the use of post-consumer recyclate. One of the conditions is that packaging must have a 'highly recyclable' rating in the Recycle Check.

Innovative materials
Producers of innovative materials must be able to demonstrate that these materials can be collected and sorted in sufficient quantities and that they are compatible with existing industrial recycling processes or that new processes are available on an industrial scale. To coordinate innovative materials with fee modulation, the innovation trajectory for the plastic chain is in place. Verpact stimulates innovation in plastic packaging through a special programme within the Plastic Fee Modulation Regulation, which provides scope for new materials or production processes/techniques. The aim of this programme is to improve the recyclability, circularity and sustainability of plastic packaging and thus contribute to the objectives of Verpact's Plastics Guide. Please see **Verpact's website** for more information.

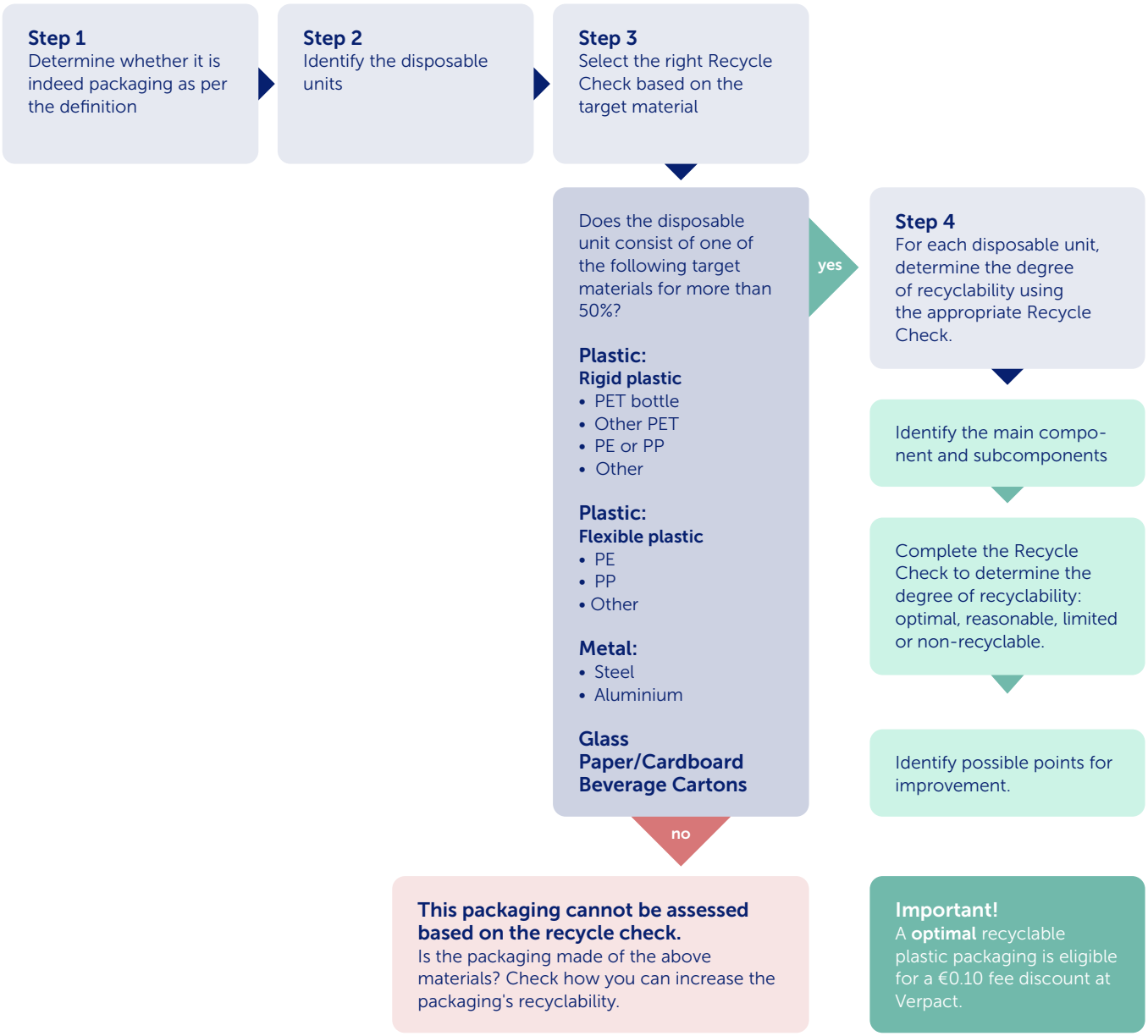
* The ideal composition of this stream varies per material and is explained for each material separately.

3. Select the right Recycle Check

The Recycle Checks were developed specifically to assess the recyclability of packaging. Packaging often consists of several different components, which may or may not be made of different materials, which users discard at different times. This affects the packaging's overall recyclability. The Recycle Checks first split packaging up into its constituent disposable units and then into a main component and subcomponents. To determine which Recycle Check(s) should be completed, it is important to first determine which disposable units the packaging consists of, and then to categorise these units by material. This section explains these terms and details the steps for choosing the right Recycle Check.

A preview of these steps is provided in the figure below, and they are further explained in the paragraphs below:

Figure 2. Select the right Recycle Check



Step 1. Determine whether it is indeed packaging

Recycle Checks can only return a reliable outcome for **packaging**. Therefore, it must first be verified that the object to be assessed meets the definition of packaging. The KIDV uses the following definition for that:

Packaging:
All products, made of materials of any kind, that can be used to contain, protect, ship, deliver and offer other products, ranging from raw materials to finished products, along the entire pathway from producer to user or consumer, including disposable items used for this purpose.

For the full definition of 'packaging', see Verpact's **policy document**. If in doubt about whether something does indeed constitute packaging, consult the (non-exhaustive) **Packaging Catalogue** on Verpact's website.

Step 2. Identify the disposable units

Most packaging is discarded in its entirety after use and is therefore considered a **single disposable unit**. Packaging that is not discarded in its entirety but as several separate components consists of **multiple disposable units**.

Whether different components or materials go through the sorting and recycling process together or separately can have a significant impact on recyclability. In practice, a single piece of packaging can consist of highly recyclable, moderately recyclable and poorly recyclable disposable units at the same time.

The KIDV goes by the principle that each packaging consists of a single disposable unit, unless:
- it consists of several unconnected components.
- part of the packaging must be permanently and completely removed in order to use the product.
- it features components, such as a lid, that can be detached by applying slight mechanical force

For some packaging, it is not always immediately clear whether it concerns one or more disposable units. A test is then required to determine how many units the packaging consists of. Some examples are elaborated below.

Packaging consisting of a single disposable unit

Table 1. **Single disposable unit**

Packaging that consists of a single piece of one material.	 Single disposable unit	***Example 1:*** *A cardboard box that is clean and dry can be disposed of with waste paper.*

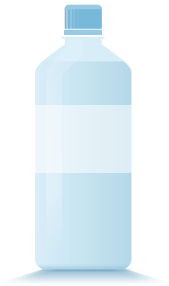
Packaging with fixed closure.



Single disposable unit

Example 2:
Glass packaging with a bracket closure are considered a single disposable unit because the bracket permanently connects the main component and lid. Even plastic bottles and beverage cartons currently often come with a permanently attached cap.

Packaging with bonded labels.



Single disposable unit

Example 3:
Labels glued to the packaging are considered subcomponents, and are not a separate disposable unit. Caps are not a separate disposable unit either, as they are generally screwed back on, and are, moreover, often attached to the bottle these days.

Packaging with multiple disposable units

There are several categories of packaging that consist of multiple disposable units. To clarify this, some examples are detailed below. Step 3 will further explain how to then choose the appropriate Recycle Check for each disposable unit.

Table 2. Multiple disposable units

Packaging consisting of several unconnected components.

The components are disposed of at different times.



Thirteen disposable units

Example 1:
A cardboard carrier tray that holds 6 small bottles. The cardboard tray and bottles each belong in a different waste stream. The crown caps on the bottles also constitute separate disposable units. So, what we have here are 13 disposable units made of 3 different materials.



Five disposable units

Example 2:
Cardboard box containing four bars, each wrapped individually in plastic wrappers. Users will take a bar from the box at different times/in different places. Therefore, the wrappers and the box are discarded at different times and places, and should be assessed separately with a Recycle Check.

Packaging with a component that must be permanently and completely removed in order to use the product

It should be possible to remove this part completely without tools (such as scissors) and without leaving any material residue.



Multiple disposable units

Example 3:
A cardboard sleeve around a plastic container. The sleeve has to be removed to open the container and access the product.



Multiple disposable units

Example 4:
A (champagne) bottle with a cork and a muselet (a wire cage that goes over the cork). These are three disposable units (bottle, cork and muselet) that go in different waste streams.

Further evaluation

There is also packaging that consists of multiple parts, which sometimes form separate disposable units and sometimes not. Further evaluation is needed to determine which disposal units the packaging consists of. A couple of examples are elaborated below.

Packaging with a component that does not necessarily have to be removed at all or not completely to be able to use the product.



Single disposable unit

Example 1:
Plastic flask with a paper sleeve that is, for example, held in place by the tapered design of the flask. The sleeve is not glued to the flask and does not need to be removed to be able to use the product. Packaging and sleeve make up a single disposable unit together, whereby the sleeve must be considered to be a label.

Short self-assessment

Sleeve detachment test

Some units of packaging feature a sleeve that is supposed to come off entirely when the packaging is compressed. This includes plastic cups with a perforated cardboard sleeve that is designed to detach when the cup is compressed. There is a protocol to test whether cup and sleeve indeed detach from each other and behave like individual disposable units. Called the Pollution and Compression Protocol, this protocol is available on the **protocols page** of the KIDV website.

Cardboard sleeve
If plastic packaging comes with a cardboard sleeve around it that consumers do not undo, but which has been shown to come loose during collection and sorting, the sleeve and packaging behave as individual disposable units. It must then be taken into account that in this case the cardboard sleeve will end up in the wrong sorting stream and must be considered non-recyclable.

The packaging features components, such as a lid, that can be detached by applying slight mechanical force.

There are types of packaging that have components, such as lids, that come off during the collection and sorting process, causing them to be processed as individual units during the sorting step.



Multiple disposable units

Example 1:
Margarine tub with a rigid lid. The lid comes off easily when subjected to minor mechanical force, meaning that it is an individual disposable unit in the packaging sorting process, even if the tub and the lid were originally discarded together.



Multiple disposable units

Example 2:
Cardboard tube with plastic cap. This lid comes off easily after being subject to minor mechanical force, becoming an individual disposable unit in the sorting process, even if the tube and the cap were originally placed in a bag or bin together as one whole.

Short self-assessment

Simple lid detachment test

You can test whether a lid detaches when slight mechanical force is applied by squeezing the empty packaging with the lid on. If the lid pops off completely, it is deemed an individual disposable unit.

Packaging with components such as a release liner



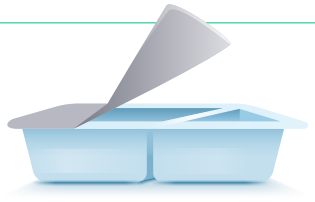
Multiple disposable units

Example 1:
Pouches/containers with ingredients in a ready-to-eat salad. These various individual components are separate disposable units and are discarded individually after use.



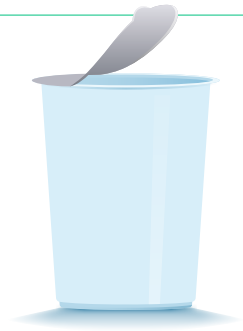
Multiple disposable units

Example 2:
A tamper-evident seal on the neck of a jar or bottle with a diameter of up to 40mm. The product cannot be used properly if the seal is not completely removed first. Used means that the product cannot be poured, spooned or dispensed, depending on the intended use of the container. Cap and bottle together make up one disposable unit, while the seal is a separate disposable unit.



Multiple disposable units

Example 3:
Plastic tray with release liner that must be completely removed to be able to use the tray's dispensing functionality.



Single disposable unit

Example 4:
Cups, trays with a wide neck, and trays where the release liner does not have to be detached completely to be able to use the product are also considered single disposable units. The liner can even be used to reseal the packaging.

Short self-assessment

Simple release liner detachment test

You can test whether a release liner detaches when slight mechanical force is applied by grabbing the open, empty packaging by the release liner and shaking it. If the foil comes off easily, it is deemed an individual disposable unit. At the start of the test, at least 25% of the release liner must still be attached to the rest of the packaging.

If there is doubt as to whether packaging consists of one or multiple disposable units, and the above examples do not provide clarity, please contact us using the **KIDV Q&A**.

Step 3. Categorise the disposable unit or units

The Recycle Check involves completing an individual checklist for each disposable unit. For each unit, determine the most common overarching and, if applicable, specific **material type** (see list below) to categorise the unit. The type of material that makes up at least 50% of the unit's weight determines what category the unit falls into. This is also referred to as the **target material**, see Section 4.

If none of the types of material make up more than 50% of the disposable unit, the disposable unit cannot be assessed using a Recycle Check. The packaging should then be adapted (see also paragraph 1.2 on legislation in this document).

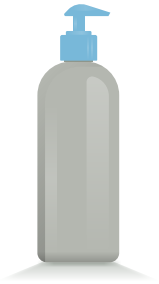
The types of material:

- **Rigid plastic**
  - PET bottle
  - Other PET (incl. PET trays)
  - PE or PP
  - Other rigid plastic
- **Flexible plastic**
  - PE
  - PP
  - Other flexible plastic
- **Metal**
  - Steel
  - Aluminium
- **Glass**
- **Paper/cardboard**
- **Beverage cartons**

To illustrate this, some examples are detailed below.

Example 1:
A hand soap container. The soap comes in a luxurious metal bottle with a plastic pump. The pump cannot be easily removed from the bottle. It is determined that the bottle and the pump make up one disposable unit, as explained in step 2. Only one checklist needs to be completed in this case, choosing steel packaging because more than 50% of the disposable unit is made of steel.

Figure 3. Hand soap container



Example 2:
A granola bar wrapper. The bars come in individual wrappers and are packaged with four in a box. According to the explanation in Step 2, it is determined that this packaging consists of five disposable units: the box and the four wrappers. To assess the packaging, a checklist must be completed for each disposable unit. In this case, choose a checklist for the cardboard box and a checklist for the flexible plastic wrappers. For several of the same disposable units, such as four identical wrappers, one checklist is sufficient.

Figure 4. Multi-packaging



In case of doubt as to what category a disposable unit falls into, please contact us using the KIDV Q&A.

Step 4. Determine the degree of recyclability

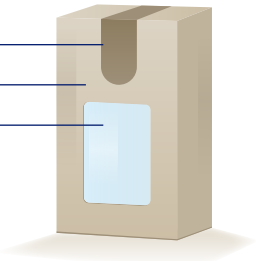
After choosing the appropriate Recycle Check to assess the recyclability of the disposable unit, the next step is to identify the **main component** and any **subcomponents**.

The main component of packaging is that which holds the product, and usually the component that makes up most of the packaging's weight. Besides its main component, a disposable unit often also has one or more subcomponents. These are added components, such as labels and closures, which are processed along with the main component in the recycling process.

The table on the next page shows some examples of how to identify the main component and subcomponents. More information on each material type is available in the material-specific background documents.

Table 3. **Determining main and subcomponents**

Subcomponent = tape
MAIN COMPONENT = box
Subcomponent = window



Single disposable unit

Example 1
Box (main component) with window and tape label (subcomponents).

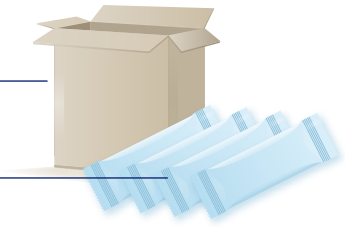
Subcomponent = closure
MAIN COMPONENT = bottle
Subcomponent = label



Single disposable unit

Example 2:
Flask (main component) with cap and label (subcomponents).

MAIN COMPONENT = box
MAIN COMPONENT = wrappers



Five disposable units

Example 3:
Box (main component) with 4 granola bar wrappers (also main components).

If there is any doubt about the difference between the main component and subcomponents of the disposable unit, and the above examples do not provide clarity, please contact us using the KIDV Q&A.

4. Target material and secondary material

What is the target material?

The target material is the material that will ultimately be recycled into a new raw material. Typically, this is the **most common material** in the disposable unit, often the material of the **main component**.

Exceptions: if a subcomponent (such as a heavy steel cap) is heavier than the main component, the subcomponent is the target material.

If a subcomponent **is made of exactly the same material** as the main component (e.g. paper label on a cardboard box or PE cap on a PE bottle), this counts towards the target material. Properties such as colour, additives and printing of these subcomponents must be taken into account in the assessment.

When does packaging have sufficient target material?

The target material must constitute at least 70% of the total weight of the disposable unit:

Target material weight / Total weight of the disposable unit x 100% ≥ 70

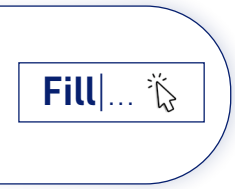
Secondary stream

Materials that are **not the target material** form the **secondary stream**.
These can affect the processability of the target material, but can also be recycled themselves if properly coordinated (design for recycling).

Example: returnable bottles made of PET with caps and labels made of PE or PP. The caps can be easily separated from the PET and can themselves be easily recycled as a secondary stream.

In **Part II**, you will find the material-specific information that goes with the checklist. See Section 6 of Part I for more tips and tools for sustainable packaging.

5. Manual for the checklist



Step 1: Creating packaging

Open the Recycle Check dashboard, add the packaging and fill in some information about the packaging being assessed and click 'Save' at the bottom of the page.



Step 2: Creating the disposable units of the packaging

Click the play button that says 'Edit packaging'. Click the green button for an explanation of how to identify disposable units. Next, add the disposable unit or units that make up the product-packaging combination. Each disposable unit of the packaging must be assessed separately.

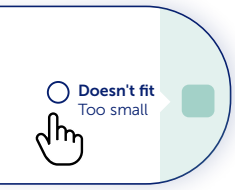
Step 3: Completing the checklist

Go through the corresponding checklist for each disposable unit by clicking the 'Start checklist' button. Upon opening the checklist, general information is provided that can be clicked away after reading. The questions include links to additional explanations for each material in the background document.



Step 4: The final score

Once all checklist questions have been answered, the 'Complete' button at the bottom of the list leads to the summary page, which gives you the final recyclability score for the disposable unit. The heading 'Final Score' shows how many questions from the checklist have already been answered. For example, if it says 8/10, then the checklist consists of ten questions and eight have been answered. As soon as the full list has been filled in, the box with the tick turns the colour that matches the checklist outcome (**optimal**, **reasonable**, **limited** or **non-recyclable**). If the packaging consists of multiple disposable units, proceed with the next checklist.



Important: data are saved locally while you are completing the Recycle Check. If you close the checklist when you are halfway through completing it, you can continue from the same computer at a later time; the previously entered details will still be there. You can only complete the list on another computer if you download the entire portfolio (see step 5).

Step 5: Saving and sharing results



The summary page offers the option to export the results to a PDF file using the 'Download PDF' button. If the packaging assessed consists of multiple disposable units, the checklists for all units of each packaging are included in one PDF export.

Tip: An empty Recycle Check can be downloaded by entering the packaging and adding a disposable unit, while not starting the checklist. When downloading a PDF, the checklist will be displayed as an empty list.

In addition, there is the option to download the entire portfolio, consisting of all completed checklists, so that, for example, a colleague can upload the entire set on their computer. You can do this by clicking the 'Export packaging' button in the top-right corner of the dashboard. This will download a .json file. An entire set can then be imported by clicking 'Import packaging' and uploading the .json file here.

Some checklists use this symbol to mark questions as complex. This means that it is more difficult to determine the right score in one go (**optimal**, **reasonable**, **limited** or **non-recyclable**). In these cases, you can usually perform a test to see whether your packaging qualifies for a higher level of recyclability. For example, it may be necessary to perform a test in order to answer one of these questions. Two scores are possible for these types of questions. The Recycle Check automatically ticks the lowest score. After a positive test result, the higher score may be ticked. However, it is important to have proof of a positive test result on hand. Where possible, references to available protocols are provided; in some cases, such protocols have yet to be developed. For updates on this, see the KIDV's **protocols page**.

Tip: Answer all questions first and determine if a test can improve the final score. Some criteria later in the checklist mean that a positive test result will not result in an improvement in the final score of the check. For example, when a test has to do with a disposable unit's sortability and it does not score optimally on recyclability to begin with. Of course, it may still be wise to perform the test to gain more knowledge about this particular aspect.

6. After the Recycle Check: tips and tools for sustainable packaging

If you want to up your sustainable packaging game, the KIDV's **7 tips** will get you off to a good start. This section will further explain what other information and tools the KIDV has available to help you get started with sustainability.

6.1 Disposal Guide

The **Disposal Guide** makes it easier for consumers to dispose of packaging waste the right way. Research shows that there is strong support among consumers for separate collection, but they need to know which bin to put their waste into. Disposal Guide logos on packaging encourage consumers to put the packaging into the right waste stream after use so that it can be optimally processed and recycled. The logos are available
from the KIDV on request.

6.2 E-learnings and training

Sustainable packaging is so much more than just changing or reducing the amount of packaging material. To provide guidance on this, the KIDV has developed a number of e-learnings:

- **Packaging recycling in the Netherlands**
  Using real-life examples, the KIDV provides insight into the collection, sorting and recycling of different kinds of packaging. This e-learning module covers every packaging material: rigid and flexible plastic, glass, metal, and paper and cardboard.

- **Plastic packaging sorting and recycling processes**
  To add further depth to the 'Packaging recycling in the Netherlands' e-learning module, the KIDV has developed this more technical module. This module further explains the basic techniques used to sort and recycle plastic packaging, going into things such as the influence of packaging design on the various sorting and recycling processes.

- **Five perspectives on sustainable packaging**
  When developing successful sustainable packaging, several aspects must be taken into account. Consider the packaging process and logistics, for example, as well as customers' purchasing and disposal behaviour and the company's packaging and sustainability strategy. The **Five perspectives on sustainable packaging® KIDV model®** covers the main approaches. This model allows you to zoom in on issues of importance in specific situations from any angle, with background information, tips and examples that can help you on your way. In this e-learning module, the KIDV shows people how to use the model, using real-life examples and assignments that apply specifically to their own packaging practices.

- **R-strategies**
  The next step is turning the opportunities and threats into actual actions, such as redesigning your packaging. The so-called R-strategies are strategies that can be applied to make packaging or a product-packaging combination more sustainable. This e-learning module goes into the specifics of using the R-strategies through real-life examples and assignments.

Training programmes

In addition to the e-learnings, the KIDV offers **training programmes**, with packaging experts introducing participants to both the theory and practice of sustainable packaging. This kind of training adds value in that it lets participants practise using the theory under the guidance of a packaging expert. There are also opportunities to ask in-depth questions and to network with other businesses. The knowledge and skills gained during this training can subsequently be harnessed in formulating your own packaging sustainability strategy and applying practical tools in your own practices.

6.3 Further information

The KIDV website features fact sheets, publications, and tools on various topics in the sustainable packaging domain. A few of them are presented below.

Fact sheets

- When can a company put an environmental claim on its packaging and when is it being made falsely and potentially misleading to consumers? The KIDV has prepared the **Environmental Claims Fact Sheet** on this subject, describing the legal frameworks for these claims, using some common examples.

- Bio-based and bio-degradable packaging materials can often help reduce CO_2 emissions and reduce demand for fossil resources. At the same time, whether these materials are a good alternative also depends on the product being packaged. For more information on these materials, their potential and the issues involved, see the **Bio-Degradable Packaging and Bio-Based Plastic Packaging Fact Sheet**.

- The KIDV's **Symbols on Packaging Fact Sheet** provides an overview of logos that consumers may find on packaging, as well as their origin and meaning and whether their use is mandatory or voluntary.

- The KIDV has put together a comparison of the use of **Disposal Guide logos on packaging in different European countries**. This overview makes it clear to companies which logos are used in those countries, whether that is voluntary or mandatory, and where companies can find information about the regulations that apply there. The KIDV also manages the **Dutch Disposal Guide**.

Dossiers

Take a look at the KIDV's dossiers to gain insight into the latest developments, get practical examples and read about focus points in making packaging sustainable. The dossiers are specific to sectors or industries and to relevant topics around sustainable packaging, such as chemical recycling and reusable packaging. Click **here** for the dossiers.

- What legislation (directly) affects the design of packaging and the reuse or disposal of packaging waste after use? The KIDV has plotted information on laws and regulations on a **clear timeline**. The timeline contains background information and links to the specific legislation itself.

- Manufacturers and/or importers that place packaging on the Dutch market are responsible for ensuring that their packaging complies with the so-called '**essential requirements**'. These pertain to the composition and nature of the packaging to minimise their volume and weight and ensure they are suitable for reuse and recovery of the materials.

- Packaging affects consumer behaviour when they purchase, use and discard products and their packaging. Sustainable packaging can, therefore, also contribute to sustainable consumer behaviour. Read more about **consumer behaviour** here.

- How consumers interact with packaging also partly determines the sustainability of packaging. Based on scientific research on consumer behaviour, the KIDV has compiled an overview of key insights. The **Sustainable Consumer Behaviour Tool** is a set of three tools that companies can use - particularly for food packaging - to look at sustainable packaging from a consumer perspective.

Reuse

To reduce the environmental impact of packaging, **reuse** can be an effective strategy. Unlike single-use packaging, the energy it takes to produce the packaging is distributed over the number of use cycles, which can greatly reduce the environmental impact of producing the packaging per use cycle.

This reduction does need to account for additional steps relative to single-use packaging, such as cleaning and transportation. A saving in environmental impact (and costs) when switching to glass packaging reuse depends on this, as do the return rate, the life of the packaging and transportation distances. Scale can also have a significant effect, particularly on costs, as it allows investments in (cleaning) equipment and more efficient processes to be recovered more quickly. To determine whether switching to reusable packaging could be an attractive option, the KIDV has developed a **Calculation Tool**.

Sustainable Packaging Compass

The KIDV has developed the **Sustainable Packaging Compass** as a tool to provide insight into the recyclability, circularity and environmental impact of packaging. This does not only indicate whether the packaging is recyclable, but also to what extent the packaging is circular. The tool also gives an indication as to the packaging's environmental impact.

Companies can harness these insights to compare different units of packaging and types of packaging, assessing their scores on various aspects of sustainability. They can then use this information to set sustainable packaging objectives and quantify the effects of packaging optimisation. There is also the opportunity to get an indication of possible fee modulation for rigid and flexible plastics.

State of Sustainable Packaging

This KIDV publication offers a strategic perspective on the collaboration and innovations needed when it comes to sustainable packaging, identifying social and economic obstacles that stand in the way of sustainable packaging.

More information

If you have more questions about the Recycle Check or about making packaging more sustainable, contact the KIDV through our **Q&A**. For more information about making packaging sustainable, go to our **website** or sign up for the KIDV newsletter **here**.

Netherlands Institute
for Sustainable Packaging
part of **verpact**

Part II: Recycle Check Paper and Cardboard Packaging 2026

1. Introduction

Part II of this document provides background information to support the Recycle Check for paper and cardboard packaging. It provides additional information on collection, sorting and recycling. All matters that are the same for all materials are covered in Part I: The basic information is the same in each background document. It includes things such as the definition of recyclability, how to choose and use the Recycle Check correctly and how to make packaging more sustainable.

The Recycle Checks for paper and cardboard packaging coincide with the recycle checks and guidelines drawn up by other countries and international organisations, such as PRN (Separation guide), CEPI and 4evergreen.

2. Collection and sorting

Part I lists all the definitions that are important for conducting a Recycle Check. The following are some definitions that are specific to paper and cardboard packaging.

For definitions of all the terms used in this document, see the **Packaging glossary** on the KIDV website.

2.1 Definition of paper and cardboard packaging

This Recycle Check is intended for paper and cardboard packaging only. Papier Recycling Nederland (**PRN**) provides information about other types of paper, such as office paper and printing paper (advertising brochures, magazines). See Part I, Section 3 for more information about what constitutes packaging.

This Recycle Check for Paper and Cardboard Packaging has been updated in accordance with the criteria set by the PRN in the Paper and Cardboard Separation Guide (see page 27). PRN lets citizens dispose of paper and cardboard with one coated or laminated side with all other waste paper to increase the percentage of recycled waste paper and simplify the waste separation process.

Paper and cardboard packaging is not only discarded by consumers, who can use packaging at home or on the go, but also by companies (such as retailers and other producers of packaged products). The Recycle Check is based on the assumption that the disposable unit ends up with household packaging waste after use, i.e. a waste paper bin in someone's home. Commercial waste (such as corrugated cardboard boxes or trays used in supermarkets) is collected and processed differently than collected household waste paper. The requirements for household waste and commercial waste may differ, as companies and waste collectors typically make specific agreements about the collection and processing of commercial waste.

2.2 Paper and Cardboard Separation Guide

In the Netherlands, paper waste is managed by PRN. In its **Paper and Cardboard Separation Guide**, PRN specifies what should and should not be thrown into the paper bin. The guide specifies, for example, that paper and cardboard packaging may only be disposed of with waste paper if it is clean and dry.

Waste paper is considered clean and dry if it is largely free of product residue, liquids and non-paper materials.

Small packaging components made of other materials, such as plastic tape or windows, or packaging with light stains left on/in the packaging after use, do not disrupt the recycling process and do not need to be removed from the main component before it is disposed of with waste paper. Paper or cardboard packaging containing contaminants must be disposed of with residual waste and packaging containing paint or glue residue must be disposed of with chemical waste.

For more information about the various waste disposal routes, see the **Milieu Centraal** website.

Figure 6. **Waste paper and cardboard separation guide**



2.3 Types of waste that are not allowed in the waste paper and cardboard stream

Beverage cartons

Beverage cartons belong in a different collection system than paper and cardboard packaging. Beverage cartons are collected together with plastic and metal packaging waste (PMD), or via post-collection separation, by most municipalities in the Netherlands, after which they are processed by a specialised recycler. This is necessary because the paper fibres that can be recovered are enclosed between two plastic layers. To make the fibres available for recycling, more intensive mechanical processing is required. Only beverage carton recycling plants with special pulpers can release paper fibres from double-sided coated/laminated paper. The Recycling Check Paper and Cardboard Packaging is not intended for beverage cartons. More information about the definition of beverage cartons can be found on the Verpact website and more information about the recycling of beverage cartons can be found in the KIDV Fact Sheet Beverage Cartons. A Recycle Check for Beverage Cartons is being developed right now, so keep an eye out for the KIDV newsletter or check the website.

Paper coated or laminated on both sides

Paper and cardboard packaging that has a single-sided plastic layer (coating or laminate) may be collected with waste paper. However, if paper or cardboard is coated with a plastic layer on both sides, the fibres cannot be recovered in a paper mill using a conventional process to turn them into new paper or cardboard. This is possible only in a paper mill with a specialised process (such as that used for beverage cartons), but this is not where the waste paper stream normally ends up. More information about laminates can be found in paragraph 3.2.

3. Recyclability focus points

This section describes the factors that influence the recyclability of the disposable unit.

3.1 Fibre types

Paper and cardboard packaging is produced mainly from wood fibre, while fibres other crops are also used, such as cotton, flax, grass, hemp and bagasse. Other alternative plant-based, fibrous raw materials are also being explored, such as elephant grass (Miscanthus) and tomato stalks. These fibres are collectively known as cellulose fibres.

Mixed plant-based materials that are not suitable for paper production should be removed during the recycling process. This also applies to synthetic fibres added to packaging, such as nylon (PA) or polyethylene (PE). Some packaging materials resemble paper or cardboard but do not contain cellulose fibres. These materials should not be recycled along with paper, because they do not meet the fibre requirement. Examples include stone paper and plastic films that resemble paper due to the prints.

If the paper fibres come from trees, use fibres that are FSC and/or PEFC certified where possible, to ensure they come from responsible and sustainable forestry.

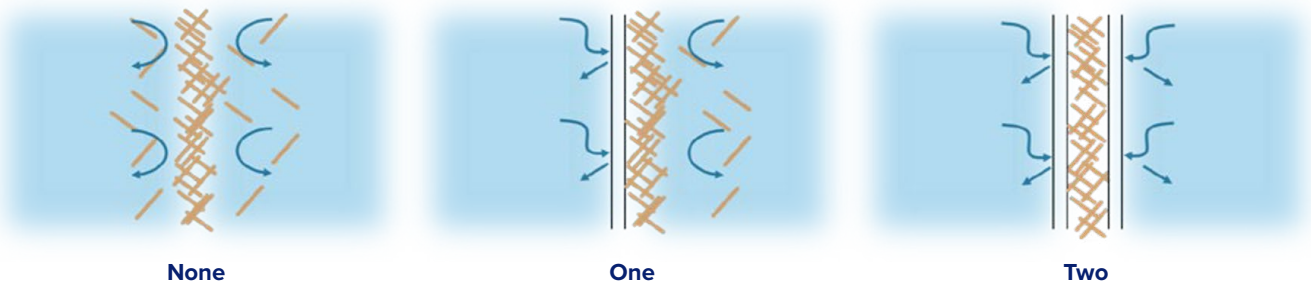
3.2 Materials that impact the recycling process

Laminates, lacquers and coatings

Adding a layer of plastic, lacquer or coating may create a barrier, for example against moisture.

When waste paper and cardboard are processed, the cellulose fibres in the paper and cardboard are separated in a pulper. These separated fibres are then used to produce new paper or cardboard. Added layers complicate the pulping process, especially if the paper and/or cardboard is sandwiched between two other layers. The diagram below shows how the pulping process works with paper featuring no added layers, one added layer and two layers. Avoid plastic coatings and laminates if possible. If this is not possible, opt for plastic coatings and laminates on one side, so that the cellulose fibres are not enclosed on two sides.

Figure 7. Cellulose fibres in laminate



Varnishes are usually transparent and contain binders, additives and solvents. They are usually applied at the end of the printing process and protect the print from mechanical and environmental factors and can at the same time enhance the feel of the paper/cardboard. They do not necessarily have more impact on recyclability than printing inks, but if varnishes fulfil a barrier function they should be treated as barriers as described below.

Demonstrating the recyclability of paper or cardboard with one coated or laminated side

Coatings and laminates limit the recyclability of the disposable unit. The Recycle Check can be used to estimate the recyclability of packaging. Recyclability can be tested according to the CEPI test in an accredited laboratory, and assessed by the 4evergreen test.

The test result of the base material is only representative of the recyclability of the total disposable unit, if the final packaging does not deviate from the base material, or only slightly so. If the final packaging is the result of additional actions (e.g. laminating, printing, coating) and added materials (e.g. windows and adhesive strips), recyclability can differ from the basic material, sometimes even considerably.

Particles that are too small

Layers consisting of materials other than cellulose fibres (e.g. UV lacquer) can be smashed into tiny particles in the pulper. These particles, if smaller than 7 µm, can pass through the filters and penetrate far into the recycling process, where they can cause problems such as tears in the newly recycled paper. Non-brittle UV inks also exist. These are not smashed during processing and can therefore be removed from paper and/or cardboard during the recycling process.

Stickies

Some materials, such as adhesives and wax, soften or dissolve in the warm process water. These stickies can penetrate far into the paper production process and leave disruptive deposits, both on machine parts and on the recycled paper and cardboard. This can disrupt the recycling process and the production of new paper. The report on **Paper and cardboard recycling in the Netherlands (2019)** published by Kennis Centrum Papier en Karton (Paper and Cardboard Knowledge Centre) contains more information about the presence and impact of stickies on the recycling process (page 30).

Fillers and additives

The use of other additives can also give paper additional properties. This includes sizing (which in paper making is something completely different from 'sticking' or 'gluing') and wet strength. The strength of paper is mainly due to the bonding that fibres form using hydrogen bonds. Rewetting dry paper will break these bonds and the paper will tend to break apart into fibres. There are two ways of maintaining higher levels of paper strength in a humid environment: sizing and wet strength. Since this happens by changing the interaction of paper/fibres with water, both applications also have an effect on the recyclability of the treated paper. The extent to which recyclability is reduced depends on the intensity of the treatment.

Sizing

One way is to give paper a certain degree of resistance to the penetration of water or water-based liquids such as ink (slightly hydrophobic). In the paper-making industry this is referred to as 'sizing'. This can be achieved in two different ways: by applying it to the pulp stock (called 'in the mass') which gives the entire paper product this property. Or applying it to the surface only (called 'surface sizing'). Many types of paper are glued, including cardboard boxes and A4 paper.

Wet strength

The other way to maintain paper strength in wet conditions is to apply 'wet strength'. The additive is applied to the mass and, after moistening, the paper becomes just as wet as untreated paper. However, wet-strength paper retains a greater portion of its (dry) strength when wet. The degree of wet strength can vary considerably; kitchen roll paper offers only limited wet strength, while banknotes and bottle labels offer high levels of wet strength.

The extent to which the paper product is glued and/or made wet-strong affects the speed of recycling. Light wet-strength products can often be processed in a standard process and (once dry and clean) are suitable for disposal in the waste paper bin. Stronger bonded or wet-strength products require a more intensive recycling process and are therefore not suitable for disposal in the waste paper bin.

If the use of fillers and additives is unavoidable, limit them to a minimum and use common substances such as clay, calcium carbonate and starch. These fillers will not disrupt the recycling process, although they may reduce fibre yield. Ideally, packaging should contain the highest possible percentage of cellulose fibres.

Table 4. Fillers and additives

Fillers and additives	Function
Starch	Strength and stiffness
Clay	Pigment and filler
Calcium carbonate (chalk)	Pigment and filler
Magnesium silicate (talcum)	Pigment and filler
Titanium dioxide	Filler and white pigment

Disruptors

PVC

Paper and cardboard packaging enters the recycling process without any pre-sorting steps. PVC components therefore end up in the separated non-fibre component stream (the reject stream). Once this stream is incinerated, the PVC can lead to the formation of components that harm the environment and the incinerator.

PFAS

Fluoroalkyls (PFAS compounds) are applied both in the wet part of the paper machine and on the surface of the substrate, e.g. to make paper and cardboard packaging water-repellent or grease-resistant. These materials can disrupt the production of paper/cardboard from recycled fibres. Due to food safety, almost all PFAS has been banned from food packaging. For more information, see the KIDV dossier on **Food Safety and Packaging**.

Inks, varnishes and lacquers

Different types of ink, varnishes and lacquers are used to print packaging. They can affect the quality of recycled paper and cardboard and should therefore be used as sparingly as possible. If ink use cannot be avoided, choose inks that can be easily removed using a de-inking process.

In some cases, waste paper is sorted by colour, depending on the capabilities of the paper merchant/sorter. 'Colour' refers to the colour of the cellulose fibres. White cellulose fibres are bleached, while grey and brown cellulose fibres are not.
In processing systems capable of sorting by colour, white waste paper is sent to a process that includes de-inking. The remaining waste paper generally enters a recycling process, in which ink is not removed.

De-inking

Waste paper and cardboard are de-inked using the flotation technique. Before this happens, the cellulose fibres are separated from each other, forming a pulp. Air bubbles and in some cases chemicals are used to remove the inks from the cellulose fibres in the pulp, which float to the top. This layer of ink is removed and the de-inked pulp continues down the recycling process.



TIPS • The use of inks on labels and direct prints

- Avoid using inks where possible.
- Use inks that can be separated from paper or cardboard fibres. Inks that dissolve in the washing water can precipitate on the target material during drying and can cause discolouration.
- Use inks that comply with EuPIA guidelines*.
- It is best to use laser coding to print information directly on the main component itself.

** Inks that meet the requirements of the EuPIA guidelines reduce the presence of harmful substances in the residual stream after de-inking.*
The EuPIA guidelines provide no indication of how well inks can be separated from the materials.
*For more information, consult the **KIDV fact sheet on inks - printing on packaging**.*

Labels

A label is added to the packaging using an adhesive (glue) at a later stage of the packaging process. A label practically never covers the entire surface of the disposable unit and is not an integral part of the main component. Both the label and the adhesive used to attach it are subcomponents. Ideally, a paper label is used with the appropriate inks (see above) and recyclable adhesives (see Section 5).

4. Closures and other subcomponents

The rule of thumb in recycling is always: what has not been added need not be removed. If a disposable unit has no subcomponents, they cannot interfere. The impact of various subcomponents is explained below.

For more information about distinguishing between main and subcomponents, see Part I, Section 3 of this document.

General effects

Packaging components consisting of materials other than cellulose fibres and that are added to paper and cardboard packaging must be removed during the recycling process, These subcomponents are sieved out and incinerated with energy recovery. Because most subcomponents are glued to the main paper component, removing subcomponents will also remove valuable paper fibre from the recycling process.

The recycling process has been designed with non-cellulose subcomponents in mind and therefore features filters and various other cleaning steps. However, it is not always possible to remove such components from the packaging, as they may be smashed in the pulping system and continue down the recycling process. In order to reduce the risk of this happening, it is preferred to incorporate as few non-fibrous components into paper and cardboard packaging as possible.

Paper and cardboard recycling processes have to be designed to filter out materials like plastics. This applies to all plastics, regardless of whether they were made from fossil resources or renewable, bio-based resources, as such bio-based plastics often behave the same as fossil-based plastics in paper and cardboard recycling processes. Biodegradable plastics also have to be removed from paper and cardboard during the recycling process. The fact that a plastic component is biodegradable says nothing about its recyclability, as these plastics too often behave the same as regular plastics in paper and cardboard recycling processes.

Cellophane is removed during the paper and cardboard recycling process. Cellophane is a film made from cellulose by going through chemical steps. Even though it is made from the same raw material as paper (cellulose), cellophane behaves like a plastic in the recycling process and is therefore not wanted in the paper and cardboard packaging recycling process.

Pergamine is a suitable alternative to cellophane, although it is somewhat less transparent. The recyclability of pergamine still needs to be demonstrated through a Cepi2 recyclability test and evaluated using the 4evergreen evaluation protocol (see Section 3.2).

5. Adhesives

The influence of adhesive on recyclability

Minimise the use of adhesives in packaging. Alternatives include the use of staples to close the packaging, which are easily separated during sorting.

Below is an overview of types of adhesives and their effects on paper and cardboard recycling.

Table 5. Adhesives

Type of adhesive	Explanation	Effect on recycling
Water-soluble	Dissolves in the process water and can be separated via the water treatment system. Soluble chemicals must not have any adverse effects on the recycling process, product quality, the environment or employees	Not disruptive
Rigid curing	Stays rigid during the hot-wash process and therefore separates well during wet sorting. Soluble chemicals must not have any adverse effects on the recycling process, product quality, the environment or employees	Not disruptive
Neither water-soluble nor rigid-curing adhesives, e.g. hotmelts	Although these adhesives are not optimal for the recycling process, they are still sorted.	Slightly disruptive
Hot melts that melt below 68°C and are smaller than 2 mm	Do not dissolve but are made viscous by the hot water, which greatly complicates separation in the recycling process. This type of adhesive, if strictly necessary, is best applied in one long line, rather than in small dots, so that it can be sifted out more easily.	Highly disruptive; these adhesives become sticky in the wet and hot recycling process. These stickies, become sticky in the hot and wet recycling process and stay this way throughout. Despite the fact that the processing systems are equipped with various filters, they can penetrate deep into the recycling process and cause problems, such as tears in newly recycled paper.

When choosing what tape or label to use, consider the type of adhesive used. Although paper-based tape and labels are preferred because they contain cellulose fibres that can be recovered, the type of adhesive has a greater impact on the paper recycling process. When choosing a tape, factor in the guidelines on adhesives.

If using a tape is unavoidable, choose paper tape without any metal and rope and with a suitable adhesive over plastic tape.

6. Additional sources of information

- KIDV packaging glossary
- KIDV packaging policy and legislation
- Verpact Fee Modulation plastic 2.0
- Disposal guide

Relevant organisations and links

PRN
Papier Recycling Nederland is a foundation that implements the agreements in the Paper Fibre Covenant.
PRN's objective is to continuously maintain and encourage the collection and recycling of waste paper at the highest possible level.
- Paper and cardboard pollution 2024

VNP
The Royal Association of Dutch Paper and Cardboard Mills represents the interests of the Dutch paper and cardboard mills.

Papiercirculair
This is a central hub for information on the recycling and recyclability of paper and cardboard.
This website is an initiative of PRN and the Royal Association of Dutch Paper and Cardboard Mills.
- Approved recyclability test institutes
- Frequently Asked Questions

CEPI
The interest group for the European paper industry.
- Test protocol

4evergreen
A consortium of manufacturers, designers, brand owners, researchers and recyclers seeking to optimise fibre-based packaging for circularity and environmental impact reduction.
- Industry tools and guidelines

KIDV
The Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging (Kennisinstituut Duurzaam Verpakken, KIDV) is the place within Verpact where you as a company can find information to make packaging (even) more sustainable. Producers and importers can contact the KIDV for advice, tools,
inspiration and support.
- Paper/cardboard dossier page
- Paper and cardboard recycling in the Netherlands 2019



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