

WHAT GOES INTO MAKING RECYCLED PAPERBOARD SUITABLE FOR FOOD PACKAGING?

Ever wonder about the recycled box that your favorite cereal comes in? As a consumer, you want to know that your money is supporting a company that keeps environmental stewardship top of mind. For the manufacturer, there's more to consider.

That's where the **Recycled Paperboard Technical Association (RPTA)** comes in. RPTA has created a comprehensive program that helps boxboard and containerboard manufacturers produce product suitably pure for food packaging to meet FDA expectations.

1. FIBER INPUTS>> 2. SOURCE CONTROL>> 3. PULPING*



Recycled paper processing mills use old, corrugated containers as well as discarded commercial and household mail, telephone books, paperboard and magazines to make new recycled-content products. The mills also use manufacturing scrap from paper and packaging manufacturers.



The program includes selection and inspection systems to control both recovered fiber inputs and the additives used in the manufacturing process.



Bales of recovered paper are broken down and added to pulpers, which use water and agitation to produce a fiber pulp for further processing.

5. PAPER MAKING* <<..... 4. CLEANING/SCREENING* <<.....



Fiber pulp is further diluted and agitated to disperse individual fibers and continue the process of removing non-fibrous substances. The fibers are laid down as a fiber mat, pressed and dried. The dried mat is rolled up for shipment to packaging manufacturers.



The fiber pulp is cleaned and screened to eliminate nonfibrous materials like residual plastic or metals.

**These manufacturing practices focus heavily on preventing contamination.*

6. PRODUCT TESTING & ANALYSES>> 7. CERTIFICATION>> 8. ASSURANCE



Product is tested for microbiological and chemical substances, such as PCBs and heavy metals, and results analyzed to ensure levels remain below unacceptable levels.



RPTA requires that each member mill implements the program fully and consistently using its certification program. An auditing firm confirms and documents conformance through on-site mill audits.



RPTA Certification provides assurance for both manufacturers and customers that the recycled product is suitably pure and meets FDA expectations. Manufacturers can be confident their products are clear of any substance that might affect food quality.

WHY DOES SUITABLE PURITY MATTER?

Anyone who cares about food can understand that you don't want the package to affect the food in any way. Packaging should not affect the smell, taste or experience of the food. It should not cause the food to be harmful.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE RPTA PROGRAM?

The Program provides a standard, or road map, for boxboard and containerboard manufacturers to ensure their products using recovered fiber are suitably pure for food packaging.

