



Home and Office Papers Frequently Asked Questions

Manufacturing

Q1 - What is the manufacturing process for paper?

A – Paper is made from “cellulose fiber pulp” that comes from trees (and some plants). There are two fundamental steps involved in papermaking: 1) isolate the fibrous raw material into pulp then 2) process and form the fibers into paper. Some papers include a percentage of fiber recovered from recycled waste paper.

De-barked wood chips are mixed with a strong caustic solution and “cooked” to dissolve and remove the lignin from the fiber. Lignin is a brown material that binds the individual cellulose fibers together into a strong and rigid woody structure. The dissolved lignin and spent cooking “liquor” is drained off, concentrated and then burned in a “recovery furnace” to generate energy and to recover the cooking chemicals so they can be re-used.

After the fiber is separated from the lignin, it is bleached to improve the whiteness and cleaned to remove contaminants. Then, some fillers, additives, and dyes are mixed with the pulp, using a “recipe” that depends on the grade of paper. Water is added and the very dilute mixture is “jetted” at very high speed onto a continuously rotating “forming fabric” on the paper machine that drains most of the water off (which is recovered and re-used) leaving behind a “formed” mat of wet paper on the surface of the fabric, which transports it to the “press section”.

As the wet paper is transported through the pressing and then the drying sections of the paper machine, more water is removed and the paper gains strength as the fibers and other materials bond together. Starch is applied to the surface to further increase strength and improve the printing and imaging properties of the paper. Various other processes are continuously managed to precisely control the “basis weight” (defined below), % moisture, thickness (caliper) and other key attributes of the paper.

The paper is wound up in large “reels” weighing many tons, which are then cut into smaller rolls used by printing or converting customers or converted into “cut size” sheets for home, business and other sheet-fed imaging applications.

Q2 – Where are Georgia-Pacific papers manufactured?

A – We have two mills that produce our fine paper products: Camas, WA and Port Hudson, LA.

Q3 - How is the paper whitened?

A – “Elemental Chlorine Free” (ECF) bleaching additives are used to whiten the pulp used in papermaking.

Packaging

Q1 - Why are the paper products wrapped in non-recyclable plastic packaging?

A – The polypropylene (PP) packaging is actually recyclable as a code 5 (The Society of the Plastics Industry) plastic packaging resin. While it cannot be recycled as part of the office paper waste stream, consumers may contact their local recycling facility to determine the acceptability of this type of plastic. Georgia-Pacific uses this packaging because it protects the paper and preserves the targeted moisture content so as to provide optimal performance during the printing or copying process. Georgia-Pacific continues to evaluate packaging for options that make it more convenient for consumers to recycle.

Specifications/Technical

Q1 - Are Georgia-Pacific paper products lignin free?

A – Yes. Lignin is a bonding agent in wood fibers and can increase the acidity of paper over time.

Q2 - Are Georgia-Pacific paper products acid free?

A – Yes. This means our papers are manufactured with a pH above 7 and are considered archival quality.

Q3 - Are Georgia-Pacific paper products chlorine free?

A – Georgia-Pacific’s paper is “Elemental Chlorine Free” (ECF). We use some chlorine dioxide (a chlorine derivative) in our pulp bleaching process, which means our paper is not “Total Chlorine Free” (TCF). The post-consumer recycled fiber we use in our recycled paper products is classified as “Process Chlorine Free” (PCF), meaning no chlorine derivative bleaching agents are used in the recovery and bleaching process.

Q4 - Do Georgia-Pacific paper products contain cotton?

A – No.

Q5 - Are Georgia-Pacific paper products PVC (polyvinyl chloride) free?

A – Yes.

Q6 - Do Georgia-Pacific paper products have recycled content?

A – Yes, we offer some products with recycled content of 30% and 100% post-consumer waste. Those products are marketed and labeled as recycled paper with their post-consumer inclusion levels delineated.

<http://www.georgiapacificpaper.com/recycled.html>

Q7 - How thick is Georgia-Pacific's 20# paper?

A - Our 20# copy paper averages about 4.0 mils of caliper, or .004 inches thick. Therefore, a 500 sheet ream of copy paper is about 2 inches thick.

Q8 – What does GSM mean?

A – GSM is world-wide measure of basis weight, which is an abbreviation of the metric units of “Grams per Square Meter”

Q9 - How many GSM is Georgia-Pacific card stock?

A- Our 110# Card Stock is the equivalent weight of 200 gsm, or grams per square meter.

Product Availability

Q1 - What home and office papers are manufactured by Georgia-Pacific?

A – Georgia-Pacific provides a wide range of home and office papers for use in xerographic, laser, and ink jet printing applications as well as papers used in commercial printing and converting operations. Georgia-Pacific, Advantage®, and Image Plus® are our brands in the retail and warehouse club channels. Our Spectrum® brand includes cut size imaging papers to meet the needs of the business-to-business copy and print market, as well as offset, envelope, laser bond and web ink jet grades sold as rolls to commercial printing and converting operations.. <http://www.georgiapacificpaper.com/>

Q2 - Where can consumers buy Georgia-Pacific paper products?

A – Georgia-Pacific branded products are sold at Amazon.com, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Costco, Fred Meyer, Kroger, Meijer, Price Mart, Publix, Wegman's, Quill.com, Rite Aid, Bi-Mart, BJ's, Big Lots, H-E-B, K-Mart, CVS retail outlets, and many other locations. <http://www.georgiapacificpaper.com/where-to-buy.html>.

Q3 - Can consumers buy paper products in bulk or at “wholesale” directly from Georgia-Pacific?

A – Georgia-Pacific markets and distributes our products through chosen channel partner networks, not directly to the end-user.

End Use

Q1 - Is card stock paper safe for home printers and copiers?

A - Card stock can be used in almost all home printing equipment. However, consumers should check their owner's manual or the website of their specific printer, to confirm.

Q2 - Which side of the photo paper should consumers print on?

A – The shiny, coated side.

Q3 - Is there a front or back side to Georgia-Pacific Paper?

A – In general, Georgia-Pacific paper does not have a front or back side. It is designed to print on either side, or both, in no particular order. We have one exception. Our coated photo paper products are for one-sided printing.

Q4 - Are Georgia-Pacific paper products archival quality?

A - Yes. Georgia-Pacific papers are acid free and made using an alkaline chemistry with a pH greater than 8. This classifies them as “archival quality”.