# Paper

## How is paper made?

Paper is made by chopping wood up into small pieces, and treating it with chemicals. This produces a soft ‘pulp’. The pulp is then spread out on a flat surface, the water is squeezed out, and it is dried, producing big sheets of paper that are then cut to size.

## How is paper recycled?

At the paper factory, the paper is chopped into small pieces, then boiled and treated with different chemicals to clean and bleach it. This produces a pulp that can be used to make new paper and cardboard products.

## What paper can be recycled?

Most paper and cardboard can be recycled. This includes newspapers and magazines, leaflets, old school books, old phone books, envelopes with no plastic ‘windows’, cereal boxes, egg cartons, paper bags, and much more.

You cannot recycle wet or dirty paper, tissue paper, wax or plastic coated packaging, self-adhesive paper and carbon paper.

## Why should we recycle paper?

It is good to recycle paper, because then they don’t have to *make* so much paper. The process of making paper is really bad for the environment. When paper is made, trees are chopped down, and the environment is polluted in many different ways.

This pollution causes an increase in acid rain, climate change, illnesses like cancer and diabetes, and reproductive, developmental, immune and hormonal problems.

## What do we need to do?

Bring the paper to the school, and place it in the container marked ‘paper’. It must be clean, dry, and as flat as possible. It should not contain any other materials, like pieces of plastic.