

EASTHAM RECYCLES

Focus on Mixed Paper



Newspaper

Recycled newspaper is often turned into:

- Newsprint (more newspapers)
- Paperboard (cereal boxes, packaging)
- Tissue products (toilet paper, paper towels)
- Insulation or animal bedding in some cases

Upcoming dates

- Sep 5-7: Windmill Weekend
- Sep 20, 9am - 12pm: Household Hazardous Waste Collection (Orleans DPW)
- Oct 21 @ 5pm: Recycling Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall)



Mixed Paper Recycling Facts

From the EPA:

- Paper and paperboard municipal solid waste was 67.4 million tons in 2018, which was 23.1 percent of total solid waste.
- Approximately 46 million tons of paper and paperboard were recycled in 2018 for a recycling rate of 68.2 percent
- Nondurable goods made of paper, excluding newspapers, had a recycling rate of 43.1 percent.
- Newspapers had a recycling rate of 64.8 percent.
- Paper containers and packaging, excluding corrugated boxes, had a recycling rate of 20.8 percent.
- Corrugated boxes had a recycling rate of 96.5 percent in 2018.



October focus: Swap Shop

Pop quiz: What can you do at the Swap Shop?

- A. Drop off items when the shop is closed
- B. Take home gently used items for free
- C. Park longer than 30 minutes

Answer from last month's quiz

Milk cartons are coated with plastic or wax, so they belong in Eastham's trash, not mixed paper recycling.

For more information

Check out these resources for more information.

- **RecycleSmartMA**
<https://recyclesmartma.org/>
- **Eastham Transfer Station**
<https://www.eastham-ma.gov/384/Solid-Waste->

Contact us

The Recycling Committee is always looking for volunteers as well as members. Contact us via the Eastham Town webpage at: <https://www.eastham-ma.gov/611/Recycling-Committee>

What Happens to Mixed Paper in Eastham?

- Paper is baled and repurposed—e.g. into new paper products.
- Recycling one ton of paper saves about 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water.
- Paper fibers can be reused 5–7 times before they wear out, so each cycle extends the life of a resource we've already harvested.
- Making recycled paper uses up to 64% less energy than making paper from virgin pulp.
 - That translates into fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

How Much Mixed Paper Does Eastham Recycle?

In Massachusetts, all recyclable paper, cardboard, and paperboard products are banned from disposal by the Massachusetts Waste Bans

Locally, Eastham residents are doing their part:

- 2023: tons of mixed paper recycled
- 2024: 127.60 tons of mixed paper recycled
 - 32.54 tons newspaper recycled

By recycling mixed paper, Eastham:

- Saves money; we pay less per ton for mixed paper than for solid waste
- Reduces pollution and greenhouse gases.
- Conserves natural resources.
- Keeps valuable material in circulation rather than turning it into smoke and ash.

Mixed Paper Recycling 101: Clean, No Trash

- Catalogs & magazines
- Cereal boxes
- Envelopes - even with plastic windows, file folders
- Glossy flyers, ad inserts
- Home & office paper
- Junk mail, phone books
- Paper egg cartons
- Unfortunately, most municipalities in MA cannot recycle coated cartons such as milk, soup, and broth cartons.