



# Corrugated: A Sustainable Packaging Choice

**Renewable**  
**Recyclable**  
**Reusable**



# Corrugated is an excellent sustainable packaging option because:

- 1. **We use a renewable resource** (wood fiber grown and harvested using sustainable practices), recovered fiber (obtained from recycling our own product), or a combination of the two to manufacture linerboard and medium, which in turn are used to manufacture our numerous products.*
- 2. **We practice source reduction** in our design and manufacturing by continually improving our uniquely engineered packaging solutions and processes.*
- 3. **We manufacture reusable corrugated containers** for many closed-loop business applications as well as storage of documents and consumer household items.*
- 4. **It is the most recycled form of packaging** because corrugated containers have high value once they have fulfilled their supply-chain function.*

## **Paper products (like corrugated) are made from a renewable resource**

- More wood grows on our nation's forests than is harvested (about 49 percent more) documenting wood fiber as a renewable resource. In fact, the amount of standing timber has increased by 39 percent since 1952, and by 10 million acres since 1990. (*USDA Forest Service – www.fs.fed.us*)
- The forest products industry plants more than 1.7 million new trees... every day! (*Abundant Forests Alliance – www.abundantforests.org*) These young, growing trees sequester more carbon dioxide than mature ones and therefore, offer a greater offset to greenhouse gas emissions.
- 93 percent of all corrugated boxes produced in the United States are supplied by Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program participants. SFI program participants are committed to sustainable forestry on their own forests, but are also required by the SFI Standard (SFIS) to encourage their suppliers to practice sustainable forestry. (*Sustainable Forestry Initiative – www.aboutsfb.org*)
- Nearly 60 percent of the energy used by the U.S. paper industry comes from renewable biofuels including bark, wood residues, and spent pulping liquors, which contain burnable substances dissolved from wood during the pulping process. (*AF&PA – www.afandpa.org*)

## **The corrugated industry is focused on source reduction**

- From 1994 to 2005 the amount of corrugated used to ship a unit of domestic industrial production has decreased by 19 percent. (*FBA – www.fibrebox.org*)
- Industry members contributed substantially to this reduction by designing more efficient packages, developing stronger papers and improving boxplant converting processes.

## **Many corrugated containers are designed for reuse**

- Several industries reuse corrugated containers in closed-loop distribution systems such as spare parts, inter-store movements, snack foods and beverages. Many bulk containers for frozen food and resin are reused multiple times.
- Businesses reuse corrugated containers to transport and store documents while consumers reuse to convey and store household items.

## **The corrugated industry is also dedicated to recovering and recycling used boxes**

- Paper and paperboard represent approximately 75 percent of all packaging recovered for recycling in the U.S. (*Franklin Associates*)
- In 2005, 76.6 percent of all containers produced were recovered for recycling... some 24.7 million tons. (*AF&PA*)
- While there are many uses for OCC (old corrugated containers), our industry puts 61 percent of all recovered OCC back into new corrugated containers. The average corrugated box is comprised of about 43 percent recovered fibers. (*AF&PA*)
- Less than 5 percent of corrugated containers used for packaging perishable items have historically been treated with materials that made them non-recyclable. (FBA) Coatings are now being marketed that are recyclable and the industry has developed a test protocol that, when passed, allows them to be labeled as such and placed into the OCC recycle stream.



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*Printed on paper made from 100 percent recovered fiber.*