

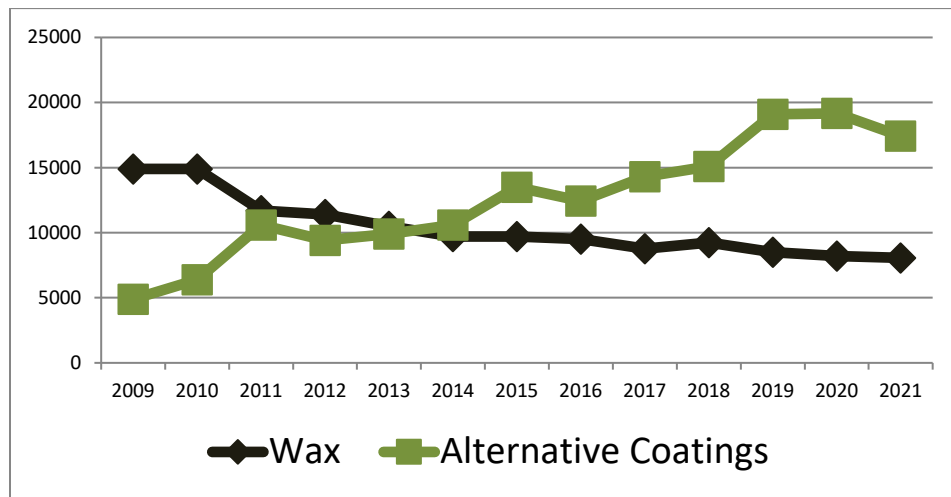
# Recyclable Alternatives Continue to Outpace Wax Coatings

The corrugated industry has traditionally used wax as a moisture barrier to preserve the strength of a corrugated container holding wet or iced products such as fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry and seafood, but a new study shows a 8-year growth trajectory for recyclable alternatives.



**Total wax usage in 2021 decreased 52.8% from 2002.**

## Alternative Coatings Grow; Wax Usage Declines (MMSF)



**Boxes with commercialized recyclable coatings accounted for 4.2 percent of total box shipments in 2021. The use of waxed boxes has steadily declined since 2002 reaching an all-time low of 1.94 percent of total shipments in 2021.**

The development of recyclable alternatives has increased the amount of corrugated packaging that can be recycled. In 2005, the Fibre Box Association (FBA) published a recyclability standard that allows alternatives to be tested, proven and certified recyclable.



- In 2021, the corrugated industry shipped 17.4 billion square feet of boxes using recyclable wax alternative coatings.
- Progress has been made in replacing all types of wax treated boxes (cascaded, impregnated, and curtain-coated) with recyclable treated boxes.





- 57 recyclable wax alternatives have passed certification testing for repulpability and recyclability and have been registered with the FBA.

### Corrugated Recycles symbols indicate recyclability.

There are several symbols that indicate recyclability of a corrugated container. Corrugated boxes marked with any of the following symbols can be recycled:



### Corrugated recovery is a true success story.

The recovery rate for old corrugated containers (OCC) was 91.4 percent in 2021. Today more corrugated packaging – including pizza boxes – is recovered for recycling than any other packaging material.

### Supermarkets lead recovery efforts.



Supermarkets are leaders in the recovery effort. Most stores recover nearly all of their used corrugated in backroom balers. Bales of corrugated are then sold to generate revenue and improve store profitability. In addition, recycling corrugated boxes and requesting recyclable wax alternatives demonstrate retailers' commitment to making sustainable packaging choices.

For more information about recyclable wax alternatives, visit <http://www.corrugated.org/recycling/recyclable-wax-alternatives/>.

