

HOW FIBRE-BASED PACKAGING CONTRIBUTES TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

We are a European industry - Our products are sustainably sourced, manufactured, used and recycled in Europe using European technology

Packaging made from renewable wood materials is obtained from a variety of sustainable sources.

In 2020, 81.3%¹ of the wooden raw material used in European fibre-based packaging, came from recycling and industrial residues.²

6.2%
came from residues of timber production⁴

75.1%
were sourced from paper for recycling⁵

6.2%
of fibres were sourced from logs not suitable for sawmills³

12.5%
came from thinnings⁶



Did you know?

84.2%⁷ of fibre-based packaging is recycled, the highest rate of any packaging material, making it a leader in the circular economy! The value chain recycles as much in volume as all other packaging materials combined.

Paper fibres from packaging were used 6.3 times on average in 2018. Several scientific studies show that paper fibres used in carton and cardboard packaging can be recycled 25 times or more while maintaining the quality of the packaging produced.^{8,9} This means packaging can be used, recycled and used again, all without losing its properties during the process.

By improving how we collect, separate and sort our materials, we can use and reuse them more often.

Fibre Packaging Europe

The European coalition for renewable, circular and sustainable paper and board packaging.



¹Wooden raw material used in European fibre-based packaging: in 2020 6.2% came from residues of timber production and 75.1% were sourced from paper from recycling
²Wood industrial residues (Cepi Glossary): the volume of roundwood that is left over after the production of forest products in the forest processing industry (i.e. forest processing residues). It includes sawmill rejects, slabs, edgings and trimmings, veneer log cores, veneer rejects, sawdust (fine particles created when sawing wood), residues from carpentry and joinery production and agglomerated products such as logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms.
³CEPI Glossary: The volume of roundwood that is left over after the production of forest products in the forest processing industry (i.e. forest processing residues) and that has not been reduced to chips or particles. It includes sawmill rejects, slabs, edgings and trimmings, veneer log cores, veneer rejects, sawdust (fine particles created when sawing wood), residues from carpentry and joinery production and agglomerated products such as logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms

⁴CEPI Key Statistics 2020, page 19: Wood chips represent 24.1% of wood consumption used for fibre-based based packaging
⁵Cepi views on the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030
⁶Thinning is part of sustainable forest management and consists of the removal of some plants, or parts of plants, to make room for the growth of others.
⁷EUROSTAT EU27, 2018: Recycling rates of packaging waste for monitoring compliance with policy targets, by type of packaging
⁸Putz, Hans-Joachim / Schabel, Samuel: Der Mythos begrenzter Faserlebenszyklen. Über die Leistungsfähigkeit einer Papierfaser. (The myth of limited fibre life cycles. On the performance capability of paper fibres.) In: Wochenblatt für Papierfabrikation. 6/2018, S. 350-357; Eckhart, René, Recyclability of Cartonboard and Carton. In: Wochenblatt für Papierfabrikation. 11/2021
⁹Eckhart, René, Recyclability of Cartonboard and Carton. In: Wochenblatt für Papierfabrikation. 11/2021
 *Images are for illustrative purposes. Actual wood and fibre types may vary.