What happens at a converter (or box plant)

This is normally an entirely different plant from a packaging mill although it may be owned or have an ongoing commercial relationship with a mill company or board supplier. The containerboard or boxboard or kraft paper arrives at the converter on a roll or in sheets. In the case of containerboard, two separate streams of fibre (linerboard and corrugating medium) are then blended together in a piece of machinery called a corrugator.

The board is printed, slotted, creased, folded and glued, and then sent on to the packer or the customer to be filled with product. Any waste material from the converting process (such as corrugated cuttings or box trim) is collected on-site and sent back to a mill for further recycling.

(If you would like to visit a packaging converter, call or email PPEC to arrange a tour).