



# FACT SHEET

## *Wax alternatives are recyclable*

Waxes are applied in fish, poultry, meat and some vegetable packaging so that ice and water can be packed against the product, keeping it fresh. The wax may appear as a coating on the inside and/or the outside layer of the box. On others, the wax is impregnated into the ruffled fluted layer of the box, making it less visible.

Because wax is not water soluble, however, waxed corrugated boxes have proven difficult to recycle. The paper industry, however, has been very active in promoting wax alternatives. See blog [Industry well on the way to solving the waxed box issue](#) and video on PPEC's involvement.

Below is information provided by Corrugated Packaging Alliance (CPA) – website [www.corrugated.org](http://www.corrugated.org).

The industry developed a new recyclability standard that allows these alternatives to be tested, proven and certified recyclable if they pass the required protocol. Certified materials should be marked with one of these symbols:



or



When you see either of these symbols, you know that the container bearing it can be successfully recycled.

Here is a [link](#) to more information from the US based Corrugated Packaging Alliance.