



FACT SHEET

Used paper and board are both imported and exported

Canadian packaging mills are highly dependent on receiving regular supplies of used paper and board. Why? Because most of them produce 100% recycled content material, made from old corrugated boxes and other paper fibre that has been collected from the back of factories, supermarkets, office buildings, and from Canadian homes.

For many years, the packaging mills couldn't get enough used paper and board from within Canada and had to import it from the United States to make sure that their mills could keep running. Imports are still necessary, but in more recent years Canada has exported more old corrugated boxes for recycling elsewhere than it has imported for recycling here.

In 2012, for example, Canada imported over 200,000 tonnes of old corrugated boxes (OCC), mostly from the United States, while exporting more than 800,000 tonnes of the same material (60% to the US and 40% to Asia, for recycling there). The trade in used box material is a regional and international one that reflects supply and demand, price, quality, and freight distance.

