



PPEC Factsheet

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.

Below is information provided by Corrugated Packaging Alliance (CPA) – website 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:



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

Here is a link to a [press release](#) and [backgrounder](#) from the US based Corrugated Packaging Alliance indicating a dramatic decrease in the use of wax basically because of the increased use of wax alternatives.