



PPEC Factsheet

What happens at a packaging mill

Packaging mills produce three main types of board or the raw material from which the packaging is eventually made. These are [containerboard](#) (used to make corrugated boxes); [boxboard](#) (also called paperboard) to make boxboard or paper cartons; and [kraft paper](#) (to make bags or sacks).

Most packaging mills in Canada used recycled pulp to make their board. The recycled pulp comes from mixing together paper fibres from old boxes and cartons and printing and writing paper that have been collected from the back of factories, supermarkets, offices, and homes. These are collected and baled and then dropped into what is called a pulper in the mill. Basically it acts like a big washing machine, with non-paper materials catching on a rotating augur or falling to the bottom. Plastic, glass and metals are removed through a series of cleaning and screening processes.

The paper fibres are then pumped onto a fast-moving screen to form paper or board. The rest of the process involves removing the moisture out of the paper or board so that it can be wound onto big rolls or cut into sheets. These rolls or sheets are then shipped to a converter.



(If you would like to visit a packaging mill, call or email [PPEC](#) to arrange a tour).