



## The waxed corrugated challenge

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](http://www.corrugated.org)

### Wax Alternatives

Traditionally, some corrugated containers have been treated with wax coatings to provide moisture and vapor protection for safely transporting products requiring it (such as broccoli, usually packed in ice). Wax coatings cannot be recycled because they do not dissolve in water, so they create problems in the repulping process. The industry has worked diligently to develop recyclable alternatives, many of which are now becoming commercially available.

The corrugated 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.