

Paper Calculator 4.0 Paper Grade Category Applications

Confused about which paper grade to choose in the Paper Calculator? Try checking this resource for descriptions and some of the common product applications for each grade. If you are still confused, don't worry, it's a technical matter and a common question. We recommend you contact your paper producer/supplier to obtain specific details about your paper or contact us at info@environmentalpaper.org with questions.

Paper Grade	Description	Abbreviated Examples	Expanded Examples
Uncoated Freesheet	Uncoated printing and writing papers, usually bleached, made with kraft chemical pulp	Copy paper	Copy paper, inkjet/laser paper, letterhead, stationery, some higher-end notebook and lined writing paper, envelopes, fine book papers, text and cover grades (often beautiful designer papers), report covers, "post-it" notes, some brochures, invitations, some business cards, some menus, thin Bible paper
Coated Freesheet	Coated papers containing a base sheet made with kraft chemical pulp, with a coating, commonly made from kaolin clay.	High-end catalog or brochure	High-end catalogs, magazines, luxury advertising, and brochures
Uncoated Groundwood	Uncoated papers made from groundwood mechanical pulp	Newsprint	Newspaper, newsprint, directory papers (e.g., phone books), inexpensive paperback books, some lined writing papers
Coated Groundwood	Coated papers containing a base sheet made primarily with groundwood mechanical pulp, with a coating, commonly kaolin clay	Mass-market catalogs, magazines	Mass-market catalogs and magazines, mass-market advertising on "slick" paper
Supercalendered	Supercalendered papers have been smoothed through an extra high-pressure roller process after paper-making in order to produce a highly polished smooth paper surface.	Newspaper inserts	Newspaper inserts, grocery and drug store advertising papers, some bulk mailbox advertisements, some mass-market catalogs and magazines

Paperboard: Solid Bleached Sulfate (SBS)	Most bleached paperboard is coated with a thin layer of kaolin clay to improve its printing surface and may be also coated with polyethylene (PE) resin for wet strength food packaging. SBS is most popular in the United States and is used to make such products as packaging, folding cartons and set-up boxes.	Medicine and food packaging, beverage (milk/juice) cartons	(White inside) - Food packaging for perishables and some frozen foods; cartons for products such as baked goods, ice cream, milk and juice; also often packaging for pharmaceuticals and medicines, candy, perfumes, cosmetics, high-priced toys
Paperboard: Coated Unbleached Kraft (CUK)	Most unbleached or natural kraft paperboard is coated with a thin layer of kaolin clay to improve its printing surface and may be also coated with polyethylene (PE) resin for wet strength food packaging.	Beverage carriers such as for beer and soft drinks	Beverage carriers for beer and soft drinks, some packaging for frozen foods or hardware
Paperboard: Coated Recycled Board (CRB)	Paperboard grade produced from 100% recycled fiber including old container packaging, newspapers, box board clippings and selected white papers, typically coated with a thin layer of kaolin clay to improve its printing surface.	Packaging for dry foods such as cereal, crackers, etc.	Typically gray inside - packaging for dry foods such as cereal, pasta, rice, cookies, crackers, pet food. Made with 100% recycled fiber and coated
Paperboard: Uncoated Bleached Kraft (UBK)	Paperboard grade produced from wood pulp or recycled fiber. Kraft pulp is darker than other wood pulps, but is bleached to make very white pulp.	○ Shoe or gift box (bleached)	Boxes for paper goods such as envelopes and stationery, shoe boxes, gift boxes, etc.
Paperboard: Uncoated Unbleached Kraft (UUK)	Paperboard grade produced from wood pulp or recycled fiber. Uncoated, unbleached (natural brown color)	Shoe or gift box (unbleached)	Boxes for paper goods such as envelopes and stationery, shoe boxes, gift boxes, hardware, powdered laundry detergents
Paperboard: Uncoated Recycled Board	Paperboard grade produced from 100% recycled paperboard including old containers, newspapers, box board clippings and selected whites. Represents the single largest market for recovered paper in the United States. Commonly known as "chipboard." Made with 100% recycled fiber and uncoated	Shoe or gift box made with 100% recycled fiber	Boxes for paper goods such as envelopes and stationery, candy, perfume, shoe boxes, gift boxes, etc.

Linerboard	A strong coarse paper, usually brown, that may be used as the facings on corrugated containers but also can be used to make kraft wrapping paper, grocery bags and similar products.	Butcher paper, grocery bags	Butcher paper, kraft wrapping paper, grocery bags, gummed sealing tape, multi-wall sacks
Corrugated Container	Boxes made from two different kinds of paper: <i>Linerboard</i> is used for facing paper on both the inside and outside of the box. <i>Corrugating Medium</i> is a fluted layer of paper between the two facings to provide strength and ability to withstand crushing. The Paper Calculator is calibrated to compute the impacts from the typical percentage of each type of paper used in corrugated containers.	Shipping boxes	Shipping boxes, bankers boxes, pizza boxes, boxes for large and/or heavy items such as computer and TV equipment or appliances, cartons of multiple reams of paper
Tissue	Tissue products are soft, thin, pliable, and absorbent sheets of paper. The primary tissue paper products and the ones included in the Paper Calculator 4.0 are paper towels, paper napkins, bathroom/toilet tissues and facial tissues. They are disposable products typically designed for a single use.	Toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, and facial tissue	Toilet paper, hand paper towels, kitchen paper towels, facial tissues such as brand name "Kleenex", and table napkins