

Paperboard Packaging Grades



Great packages begin with the right material — one that can deliver performance, quality and reliability for the product it houses. Paperboard packaging comes in several different grades that possess unique characteristics, making each grade suitable for different packaging requirements and needs.

Solid Bleached Sulfate (SBS)

Bleached paperboard or solid bleached sulfate (SBS) is a premium paperboard grade that is produced from a furnish containing at least 80 percent virgin bleached wood pulp. 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.

Major market segments that use SBS:

- Medical packaging
- Milk and juice gable top cartons
- Aseptic drink boxes
- Cosmetic and perfume packaging
- Frozen food packaging
- Candy boxes

Recycled Paperboard

Uncoated Paperboard

Uncoated recycled paperboard, a multi-ply material, is produced from 100 percent recovered paper—collected from paper manufacturing and converting plants and post consumer sources—and represents the single largest market for recovered paper in the U.S. Some uncoated paperboard is produced with a top ply of white recovered fiber or is vat dyed for color.

Major market segments using uncoated recycled paperboard:

- Shoeboxes
- Composite cans and fiber drums

Coated Paperboard

Coated recycled paperboard, a multi-ply material, is produced from 100 percent recovered paperboard just as uncoated paperboard; however, it is typically coated with a thin layer of kaolin clay over a top ply of white recovered fiber to improve its printing surface.



Major market segments using coated recycled paperboard:

- Soap and laundry detergent packaging
- Cookie and cracker packaging
- Paper goods packaging (facial tissue and napkins)
- Cake mix packaging
- Cereal boxes
- Other dry food packaging

The Paperboard Packaging Alliance

The Paperboard Packaging Alliance (PPA) is a joint initiative of the Paperboard Packaging Council (PPC) and the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA). The PPA provides the paperboard packaging industry with ongoing analysis of evolving packaging requirements and promotes the benefits of paperboard packaging and products. Alliance membership includes companies representing the full range of mills and converters engaged in the production of paper-based consumer goods packaging. For more information about the PPA or paperboard packaging visit www.paperboardpackaging.org.

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