

How it works...



COLLECTION OF PAPER AND BOARD FOR RECYCLING

Once they have been used, paper products are collected for recycling in two ways: via separate municipal collection (blue bin, retail door-to-door, and recycling centres), which accounts for 20% of the paper and board collected for recycling, and secondly, collection made by private operators in large shopping centres, industries, printing shops., which accounts for the remaining 80%.

Where there is most room for improvement is in paper from domestic households, where the collection rate is 60%, while in large retail outlets, printing shops, industry, etc. the rate is practically 100%.

All this collected paper and board goes to the depots of recovery firms for treatment, which involves sorting, conditioning and baling it according to the UNE-EN643 standard.

Finally, paper mills buy that paper and board and recycle it, using it as a raw material to make recycled paper and board, which returns to the consumer in the form of different paper products.

THE RECYCLING MILL

When paper for recycling arrives at the paper mill, it is mixed with water. In successive cleaning and screening stages, its cellulose fibres are separated from staples, plastics ... if it was printed paper, inks are also removed by means of a flotation process.

The pulp slurry formed of just clean fibres is then fed onto the paper machine, where a wet paper web is formed, from which water is removed by gravity, vacuum, pressure and finally with hot drying.