



Gift Wrap Waste Fact Sheet

- During the holidays in the U.S., an additional five million tons of waste are generated. Of this total, four million tons is wrapping paper and shopping bags.

Waste Reduction & Recycling: Waste Facts and Figures. CleanAir Council.

[Learn More](#)

- Wrapping materials, such as ribbon and paper, make up much of the trash during the holiday season. In fact, each year in the U.S., 38,000 miles of ribbon is thrown out – enough to tie a bow around the Earth!

Environmental Services News Release, 2004. The City of San Diego.

[Learn More](#)

- Between Thanksgiving and New Years' Day, Americans generate 25 percent more waste each week than they do during other weeks of the year. This amounts to an additional 1.2 million tons per week of waste during the holiday season, or an extra six million tons.

The Use Less Stuff Report. Robert Lilenfeld and LARC Associates, LLC.

[Learn More](#)

- The pulp and paper industry is the third largest consumer of chlorine and the second largest consumer of energy in the U.S., but it is unrivaled in its use of water per ton of product. Furthermore, paper production contributes to air and water pollution: Into the air, it adds greenhouse gases and pollutants, such as nitrous and sulfur oxides, acetone, methanol and carbon monoxide. Into the water, it adds many noxious chemicals, including deadly dioxins, furans and chloroform.

The Mueller Report: Moving Beyond Sustainability Indicators to Sustainability Action at Penn State (page 22). Penn State Green Destiny Council.

[Learn More](#)

- It can be difficult to find a location to recycle your wrapping paper because the materials are typically non-recyclable. Wrapping paper is often dyed and laminated. It can contain non-paper additives, such as gold and silver coloring, glitter and plastics. Wrap can be very thin, and may contain few good quality fibers for recycling. In addition, it usually has non-recyclable tape on it.

Facts About Recycling Wrapping Paper. Earth 911.

[Learn More](#)



- “Take six trees, chopped and chipped, and enough fuel to run your house for three weeks. Boil in lye for a few hours, acid wash, bleach and dry. What is it? Just enough paper to supply one American for a year.”

Public service announcement : Cost of Wasted Paper. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Municipal Waste Reduction Toolkit.

[Learn More](#)

- Packaging materials comprise almost one-third of the waste generated in the U.S.

Florida Wednesday, U.S. Department of Environmental Protection

- If every family wrapped just three holiday presents in re-used materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

Greening Your Holidays. Cygnus Group via MIT The Monthly Bale, Vol 1, No. 4, December 2004.

- Compared with paper products, cotton uses up to 63 percent less energy, generates up to 48 percent less greenhouse gases and generates up to 79 percent less waste. Paper made partly from recycled material still has an environmental impact that is 100 percent greater than that of cotton. The total environmental burden associated with virgin luxury paper is higher still, at 250 percent greater impact.

Total Environmental Burden, Supplement to the technical report. Eberle, U., Moller, M. European Textile Services Association (ETSA).

- Think bamboo textiles are more environmentally friendly than cotton?

When it comes to soft bamboo textiles, like shirts or sheets, there’s a catch: They’re actually rayon. The Federal Trade Commission, the nation’s consumer protection agency, wants you to know that the soft “bamboo” fabrics on the market today are rayon. They are made using toxic chemicals in a process that releases pollutants into the air. Extracting bamboo fibers is expensive and time-consuming, and textiles made just from bamboo fiber don’t feel silky smooth.

There is also no evidence that rayon made from bamboo retains the antimicrobial properties of the bamboo plant, as some sellers and manufacturers claim. Even when bamboo is the “plant source” used to create rayon, no traits of the original plant are left in the finished product.

Federal Trade Commission Consumer Alert, August 2009

[Learn More](#)