

# Recycled Products

## The Smart Choice for Consumers and the Environment

### Recycled Products Are...

- **High Quality** – Recycled products meet the highest quality standards. Increased demand and major changes in technology have resulted in improved products that are comparable in quality to products made with virgin materials.
- **Readily Available** – Recycled products are available in major retail stores, building supply centers, hardware stores, garden centers, catalogs and online.
- **Affordable** – Recycled products often cost less than products made with virgin materials. Even higher-priced recycled products may be cost effective because they frequently offer enhanced durability and reduced maintenance costs.
- **Diverse** – There are thousands and thousands of types of recycled products on the market!

### Did You Know...

- By purchasing recycled products, consumers are helping to create long-term stable markets for the recyclable materials that are collected from New Jersey homes, businesses and institutions.
- The purchase of recycled products is crucial to the success of New Jersey's many recycling programs, as well as recycling in general, which has proven to be both an environmental and economic success story.
- The State of New Jersey purchases a variety of recycled products for its government operations, including recycled copy paper, garbage bags, toner cartridges, antifreeze, traffic cones and road construction aggregate.
- American businesses demonstrate their commitment to buying recycled by purchasing billions of dollars of recycled content products annually.
- In addition to preserving natural resources and saving energy, recycling employs almost 27,000 people in New Jersey and adds almost \$6 billion in annual receipts to our state's economy.



## Recycled Product Fun Facts

- Old newspapers can be made into new newsprint, building materials and pencils.
- Old magazines can be made into paper towels, napkins and toilet tissue.
- Plastic soda bottles can be made into carpet fiber and t-shirts.
- Plastic milk jugs can be made into picnic tables and railroad ties.
- Aluminum cans can be made into new aluminum cans and window frames.
- Glass bottles can be made into new bottles and "glassphalt."
- Steel cans can be made into new cars.
- Scrap tires can be made into door mats and playground surfacing materials.

## Key Definitions

**Post-consumer material** – A finished product that has been used by the consumer and collected for the purpose of recycling.

**Pre-consumer material** – Scrap materials generated by a manufacturing process that are collected and reused to make new products.

**Recycled content** – The amount of pre-consumer material and/or post-consumer material used to manufacture a recycled product (expressed as a percentage of the total content.)

**Recycled product** – Any product that is manufactured in part or in whole using recycled materials.

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