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INSIGHTS

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Facts about Recycled Paper

Although we're now traveling along the Information Highway and continue to hear rumors about the advent of the "paperless office," the universally common material made from wood pulp is anything but extinct. Paper is still with us and will be for a long time.

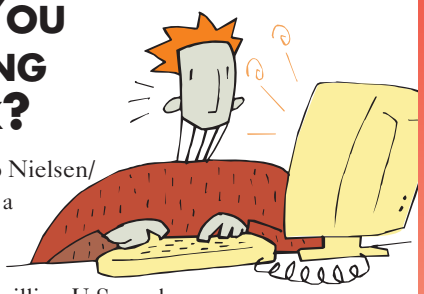
Recycled stock, a growing member of the paper family, is increasing in popularity and versatility. Some facts and figures:

- The first recycled paper was manufactured in 105 A.D. Since then recycled stock in some form or another has been used sporadically by different cultures.
- While the use of recycled stock saves some trees, its principal contribution to the environment is to reduce the need for landfill space. Most nonrecycled paper is manufactured from wood grown on tree farms, not from cut down in forests.
- Direct-mail pieces account for only about two percent of the trash dumped in U.S. landfills. Discarded newspapers, however, constitute as much as 20 percent of America's landfill refuse.

Today recycled paper is available in most of the same grades, weights and finishes as virgin paper. Most people can't tell the difference. And the fact that it continues to be environmentally friendly makes it an even more sensible choice.

We at ChemStation choose to make the environmentally friendly choice of having this newsletter printed on recycled paper. ■

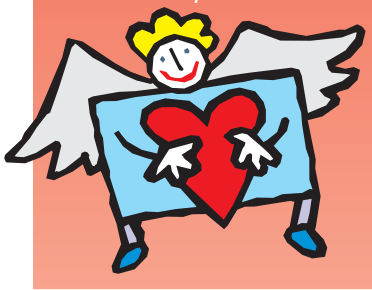
Are You Keeping Track?



According to Nielsen/NetRatings, a one-week snapshot showed 4.7 million U.S. workers visited e-Bay while at work. Each visitor spent an average of 44 minutes at the site during the week. That translates into approximately 180 million employee-hours in a year. ■

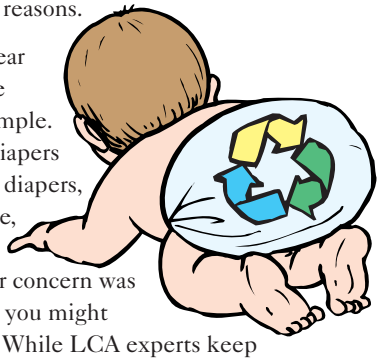
Fun February

A popular fun tradition in the U.S. is watching TV on February 2 to see if Punxsutawney Phil gets a glimpse of his shadow. If he does, it's an omen of six more weeks of bad weather. But, if he doesn't, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground. The fun continues on February 12 with Mardi Gras in New Orleans (also known as Fat Tuesday). February 14 is St. Valentine's Day. During the third week, you can celebrate "Pay Your Bills Week" (that ought to be a lot of fun!). February is also Potato Lovers Month. Everyone can get on the bandwagon February 17 and celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day. Whatever you do – have Fun in February!



Great Diaper Wars

What ever happened to them…the Great Diaper Wars of the 1980s? (Are cloth diapers more environmentally friendly than disposable ones?) Perhaps you recall the "Paper versus Plastic Bag Crusades" of the early 1990s. These pitched battles between competing products were fought, in large part, with weapons forged from a then-novel environmental analytical tool called life cycle assessment (LCA). This tool attempted to capture, in a single analysis, the environmentally significant aspects of a product from cradle to grave. Its goal was to simplify complicated comparisons of the "environmental friendliness" of competing products – a dream come true for marketing and communications departments. That being the case, why today are we not bombarded with LCA-backed claims of "green" superiority? There are several reasons.



First, LCA seldom, if ever, delivers clear victories in "green" competitions. The Great Diaper Wars is an excellent example. LCA studies made it clear that cloth diapers were not better or worse than disposal diapers, just different. If you valued landfill space, you might choose cloth diapers; if your concern was water consumption, you might choose disposables. While LCA experts keep trying to reduce these kinds of comparisons to a simple "which one is greener" outcome, current comparisons involve complicated trade-offs that make most consumers' eyes glaze over. This has limited the commercial use (and misuse) of LCAs.

The International Standards Organization (ISO) also bears a great deal of the responsibility for having driven LCAs largely out of public view. It developed standards that help reduce the temptation to produce studies with the greatest potential for abuse – namely, comparative studies involving value judgments about the relative importance of different environmental attributes.

Does this mean that life cycle assessment is dead? Not at all. It just means that most of these studies are either being performed for internal use only or are being done out of the limelight, in places where the results can be used to inform important public policy debates. ■

Source: TAPPI Solutions

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OSHA to Help Employers Assess Risk

The Anthrax Matrix is a new model developed to assist employers and employees in dealing with possible workplace exposures to anthrax in mail handling operations today. It guides employers in assessing risk to their workers, providing appropriate protective equipment, and specifying safe work practices for low, medium, and high risk levels in the workplace.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration developed the matrix in consultation with the U.S. Postal Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. OSHA expects to continually update information on anthrax and other terrorism threats as new guidance becomes available.

Source: US Poultry News & Views





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Soapbox

Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again. - *Franklin P. Jones*

Antonym, n.: The opposite of the word you're trying to think of.

Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book. - *Ronald Reagan*

If the facts don't fit the theory, change the facts. - *Albert Einstein*

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage. - *Mark Russell*

Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance. - *Will Durant*

Opera is when a guy gets stabbed in the back and, instead of bleeding, he sings. - *Ed Gardner*

Efficiency is intelligent laziness. - *David Dunham*

Seeing a murder on television…can help work off one's antagonisms. And if you haven't any antagonisms, the commercials will give you some. - *Alfred Hitchcock*

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything. - *Unknown*

An ignorant person is one who doesn't know what you have just found out. - *Will Rogers*

Everyone is entitled to be stupid, but some abuse the privilege. - *Unknown*

I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous. - *Graffito*