

3. From paper to paper

Paper used to be made from cloth. The cloth was beaten into a pulp, and then mixed with water and chemicals. The rag-and-bone man used to buy and collect unwanted rags to sell to paper makers.



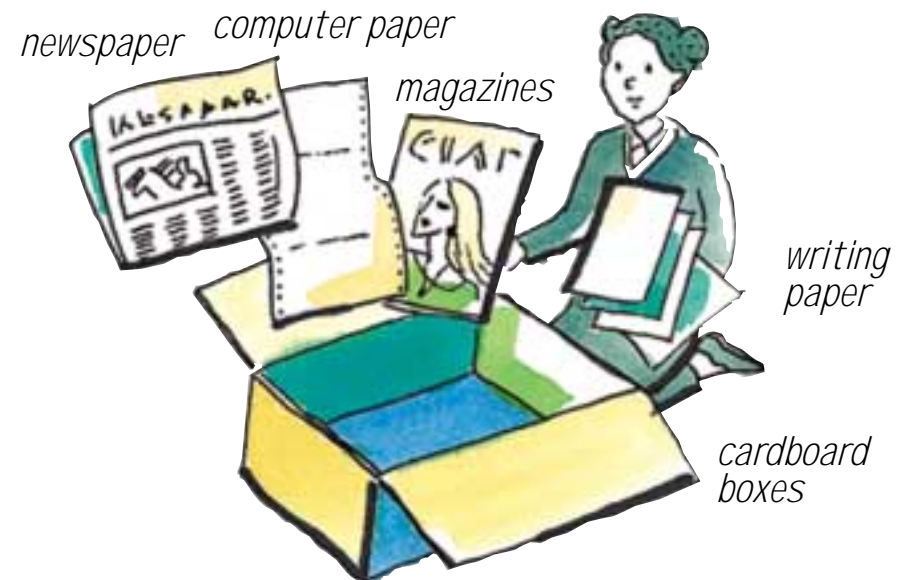
Then people found ways to recycle waste paper. It is important to use 'second-hand' paper material where possible, to reduce the number of new trees we use up and to cut down paper waste.

In the UK, 55% of paper is now made from recycling waste paper. Paper can be recycled about four times before the fibres 'wear out' and new fibres must be added.

Sorting paper

Before waste paper can be recycled, it must first be sorted into different types of 'quality'. For example, writing paper is better quality than newspaper. When you take your newspapers to the paper bank you are helping this process at the very start.

? **Here are some types of paper. Put them in what you think is the right order of quality.**



Some types of paper cannot be used again. For example, the gum used on envelopes and the waxy coating of fax paper make them unsuitable for recycling.