



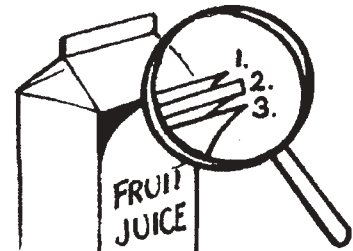
Milk and Juice Cartons

Did You Know?

- The recycling rate for liquidpaperboard cartons for Australia was 14% (ALC, 2001).
- A 7% reduction in weight per carton has been achieved since 1990. (ALC, 2001).
- About 5 sheets of office paper can be made from 1 recycled milk carton. (Planet Ark, 2001).
- In 2000, 120 million milk and juice cartons were recycled into high quality office paper and cardboard.

About Drink Cartons

Milk and juice cartons are made of liquidpaperboard and have been used for more than forty years. Cartons are now being used to package a wide range of foods including: cream, custard, flavoured milks, sauces, detergents, soups, wine, oil and cereal grains. Western Australians recycle more than one quarter of their liquidpaperboard cartons in kerbside recycling services.



1. Polyethylene
2. Cardboard
3. Polyethylene

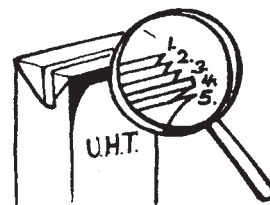
There are two basic types of cartons: gable top and aseptic bricks. Gable top cartons are your typical milk cartons while aseptic bricks are used in tetra packs and long life (UHT) milk cartons.

Gable top cartons

These are made from a layer of board sandwiched between two layers of very thin plastic. Some fruit juice cartons also have a layer of foil and a third layer of plastic to improve shelf life and retain flavours.

Aseptic Bricks

Also called UHT or Long Life packs, these are a newer type of carton made from five layers: three of plastic and one of foil and one of board. The products in these cartons are sterilized before packaging and as the cartons fully seal the contents, they do not need to be refrigerated during transport or storage before opening.



1. Polyethylene
2. Alufoil
3. Polyethylene
4. Cardboard
5. Polyethylene



Department of
Environmental
Protection



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Being Waste Wise with Drink Cartons

Milk and juice cartons are made from paper and plastic. To conserve energy, the trees that make paper, the petroleum that makes plastic and reduce waste to landfill, it is important to be waste wise when it comes to drink cartons. There are three steps to follow:

Reduce

Selecting the appropriate size container for individual or family needs can reduce carton waste. Milk cartons come in sizes from 250 millilitres – 1.5 litres. Select a larger carton rather than multiple small ones where possible. UHT packaged material is handy for times you might run out of milk and need some extra, or if you are going away and can't transport refrigerated goods.



Reuse

According to Association of Liquidpaperboard Carton (ALC) Manufacturers, cartons can be placed in compost bins. Under ideal conditions, the cardboard in the cartons should break down in 3 months. The plastic, being very thin and unstabilised, breaks up into small pieces.

Milk cartons can also be reused for:

- growing seedlings
- tree guards
- making building blocks or rattles
- a bird feeder – by cutting – of a side panel off
- pencil holders (try decorating with stickers or wrapping paper)
- storing waste cooking fat in the freezer until rubbish collection day

Recycle

Before recycling cartons should be:

1. Rinsed and flattened and
2. Placed flattened inside an open carton.

You should be able to insert at least six 1-litre cartons inside an open one, even more if you top and tail them.

Cartons collected from kerbside recycling collection services in WA are taken to a material recovery facility (MRF) where they are sorted and separated from other recyclables. The cartons are then baled and taken to a processing plant in New South Wales, where they are recycled into paper.

Check with your local council for details of carton recycling in your own area.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



The Recycling Process

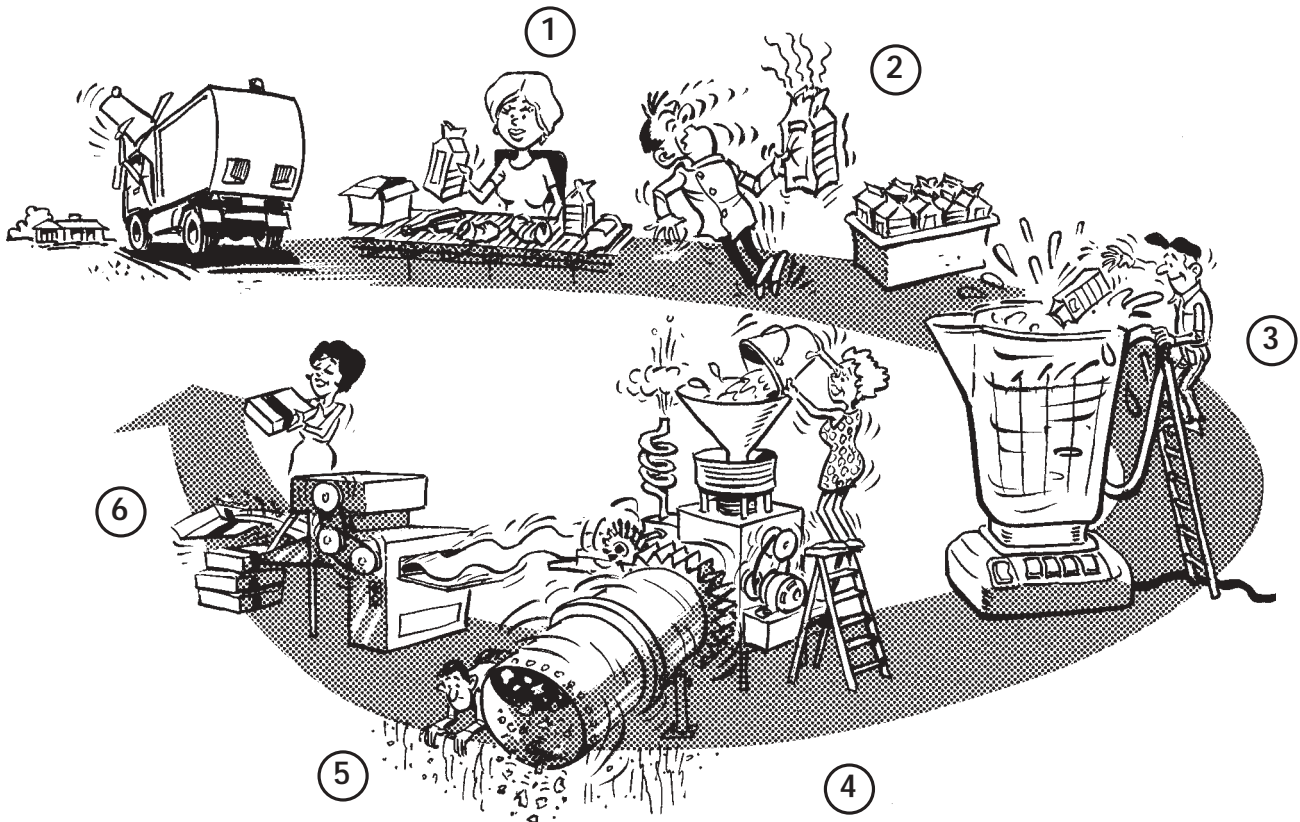
1. Cartons collected by a kerbside recycling program are taken to a materials recovery facility where they are sorted from other recyclable materials.
2. At the processing plant, cartons are de-baled, checked for contamination and placed with water in a machine called a hydropulper (like a giant blender).
3. In the hydropulper, the cartons are broken up and the plastic and foil separates from the paper fibres.
4. The former cartons, which are now paper pulp, are fed into a giant papermaking machine.
5. As the rotating drum slopes downwards, the plastic and foil continues to move along the drum until it falls into a pit, where it is collected, baled and finally discarded. The water is recovered and reused.
6. The end result is a top quality range of paper products, including a high quality photocopy paper.

Sources:

Association of Liquidpaperboard Carton Manufacturers. 2001

Useful Websites:

- www.planetark.org/cartons
- www.visy.com.au
- www.alc.asn.au



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



The Waste Wise WA Program

There are a number of programs working towards educating the community to minimise waste.

These projects are funded by the Waste Management and Recycling Fund from money collected as a Waste Levy whenever garbage is delivered to landfill.



Waste Wise WA display trailer

The trailer is a mobile interactive display about waste and recycling available for schools, community groups, expos and shows. A Waste Education Officer will staff the display to answer questions and provide Fact Sheets.

Waste Wise WA Website: www.wastewise.wa.gov.au

This website contains comprehensive information about issues relating to waste minimisation in Western Australia. It includes information on the 3Rs; organic waste; landfill; the school program; regional waste and workplace waste reduction. The complete series of Fact Sheets are also available to download.

Waste Wise WA Youth Grants

The Youth Grants provide opportunities for youth community groups to undertake waste minimisation projects in their local area. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available, with applications assessed monthly.

Waste Wise Schools Program

This program empowers schools to minimise their waste outputs and incorporate waste issues into the curriculum. The program provides teacher workshops, the Waste Wise Schools Kit, a network of Support Schools, Accreditation and Awards programs and ongoing support.

Earthcarers

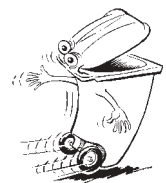
The Earthcarers project is directed at a Regional Council level. It trains, guides and supports community volunteers to foster domestic waste minimisation behaviours. The program involves all levels of the community working together.

Contact

For further information about any of these projects, contact the Waste Wise WA officers at the Department of Environmental Protection.

Phone: 08 9222 7000 or 08 9278 0300.

Email: wastewise@environ.wa.gov.au



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