



Amazon’s Recyclable Paper Padded Mailer


Amazon’s new recyclable paper padded mailer is a paper-based and curbside recyclable packaging solution optimized for weight, flexibility, and impact resistance. Using revolutionary lightweight cushioning in lieu of multi-material plastic bubbles enables curbside recycling as the cushioning easily separates from the paper fibers during the re-pulp process. Amazon launched this new mailer at select North America fulfilment sites in 2018. This new paper-based padded mailer meets a critical industry need to replace non-recyclable dual material packaging with a fully recyclable version.



Amazon recyclable paper padded mailers were evaluated for repulpability and recyclability. Testing performed used a 3% loading of padded mailers, simulating 20-times the expected loading of this new packaging in an average recyclable bale. The recyclable paper padded mailer demonstrated high repulpability and reclamation of fibers (96.7%), quality paper test performance using the reclaimed fibers, clear removal of inks, labels, and non-fiber components, and a low stickies test result (4-7 spot count), indicating easy removal of all non-fiber components. See table below for summarized data. Based on these results, How2Recycle® issued Amazon’s recyclable paper padded mailers a Widely Recyclable label.

Test Method	Units	Control – 100% Kraft	Amazon’s Recyclable Paper Padded Mailer at 3% loading	Pass or Fail	Criteria
Repulpability	%	-	96.7%	Pass	> 85%
Slide Angle, T-815	Degrees	31.3	32.4	Pass	> 85% Control
Water Drop Penetration, T-831	Sec	2.12	1.05	Pass	< Control + 200
Short Span Compression, T-826	lbf/inch per gsm	0.51	0.50	Pass	≥ Control – 10%
Burst Strength, T-403	psi per gsm	3.43	3.24	Pass	≥ Control – 10%
Average Stickies Spot Count	Count	0	6.3	Pass	≤ 15, or < Control + 30%

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<p>I see a How2Recycle® Paper Bag marking on the package, how did the package qualify for this labeling?</p>	<p>Amazon’s paper padded mailers were issued a Widely Recyclable label by the How2Recycle® program. As a part of its assessment, How2Recycle® reviewed Amazon’s lab tests for reprocessability and data from a recycling trial at a recycled fiber mill.</p> 
<p>Can Amazon’s recyclable paper padded mailer be recycled in the paper waste stream?</p>	<p>Amazon informs customers that this new paper padded mailer can be placed in the same bin as paper or boxes; for most customers this is their curbside single-stream recycling bin. Sorting equipment will recognize the mailer as paper and sort it into appropriate recycling bales in material recovery facilities. Recycling testing confirmed the cushioning is filtered out during the recycling process and does not affect recycled paper quality.</p>
<p>What testing has been conducted with Amazon’s recyclable paper padded mailers regarding its processability in a standard paper recycling mill?</p>	<p>Testing performed for repulpability on Amazon’s recyclable padded mailers showed a high rate of fiber recovery (>96%). The mailer has been tested in a traditional corrugated recycling mill at more than 20-times the expected loading of mailers in an average recyclable bale with no adverse impact on mill operations or the final paper quality.</p>
<p>What is the cushion material used in Amazon’s recyclable paper padded mailers?</p>	<p>The mailer is made up of four layers of paper and a cushioning material that protects products during shipping. The cushioning material is created with components commonly found in the glue used to make corrugated boxes. The cushioning material was specifically designed to easily separate from the paper in the same way that print inks and other paper coatings are removed during the paper recycling process.</p>

For more information on Amazon’s recyclable padded mailer, visit <https://www.amazon.com/amsc>