

PAPER RECYCLING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Facts and statistics

June 2018

Paper recycling statistics for 2017

(All values in metric tonnes)



Siphamandla Ntshangase and his crew operate a recycling business that services part of the Northern Cape.

Paper production and consumption	Paper Production	Paper Imports	Paper Exports	Paper Consumption
Newsprint	180 727	3 746	36 980	147 493
Printing/writing	342 457	487 581	136 243	693 796
Corrugated materials/containerboard	1 208 571	141 038	326 947	1 022 661
Other wrapping papers	46 950			46 950
Tissue	228 991	35 879	36 282	228 588
Other paper	138 186	47 227	104 005	81 408
Board	34 178			34 178
Total	2 180 061	715 471	640 456	2 255 075

70% of recoverable paper was collected in 2017.

Recoverable paper	Tonnes
Paper consumption	2 255 075
Less paper exported in agricultural products	- 43 850
Less paper unsuitable for recovery	- 397 546
Recoverable paper	1 813 680

Recovery of recyclable paper	Paper Recovered in South Africa	Recovered Paper Imports	Recovered Paper Exports	Consumption of Recycled Paper in SA
Newspapers	146 509	7 656	69 143	85 023
Magazines	30 955			30 955
Corrugated, solid cases, kraft papers	850 992	24 415	44 593	830 815
Office, graphic papers	139 421	383	2 376	137 429
Mixed and other papers	114 242	25 440	5 987	133 694
Total	1 282 120	57 895	122 098	1 217 916

1,3 MILLION TONNES

Paper diverted from landfill in 2017.

This would cover 233 soccer fields.



The weight of 213,000 African elephants.

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PRASA member contact details

Yes! You can recycle these paper products:

- Magazines and brochures, including glossy varieties
- Milk, juice and food cartons
- Paper cups
- Newspapers
- Office and shredded paper, envelopes
- Cardboard boxes of any kind – dry food, cosmetic and medicine boxes; roll cores, packing cartons (flattened)
- Old telephone directories and books
- Paper giftwrap

Throw these in the general rubbish bin:

- Wet/dirty paper and cardboard
- Sticky notes
- Used paper plates, disposable nappies, tissues and toilet paper
- Foil-lined or laminated boxes
- Cement and dog food bags
- Foil gift wrapping, carbon and laminated paper

