

Paper

Uncoated.

Uncoated stocks have no coating on top. The most common uncoated stock is photocopy paper, but they can range from the least to the most expensive stocks on the market.

The lack of coating has advantages:

- there is no glare, making reading easier
- it has not been calendered (polished) so even the lightest stocks are bulky – that means you can't easily see from one side of the paper to the other (called show-through), making reading easier
- it weighs less than coated stocks, and for a 100 page report, that can make a huge difference with postage rates
- it is sometimes (wrongly) perceived as being more environmentally-sensitive than coated stocks.

The disadvantages of uncoated stocks:

- covers can become dog-eared quickly because there is no extra protection to the paper
- ink sinks into the surface, so without careful printing and good photography, they can look flat and dull
- printers need to take more care printing on uncoated stocks.

Coated

Coated papers are simply uncoated papers with a clay coating on top. The amount of coating, and the amount of calendaring (polishing), is the difference between the least and most expensive stock.

Coated papers are commonly used because:

- they are 'commodity' papers, readily available and inexpensive
- the coating ensures ink does not sink into the paper, and that makes images look brighter and more detailed
- the coating makes the cover stock a little more durable than uncoated
- printers generally prefer to print on coated stocks.

Environmental considerations

There are four types of environmental paper:

- recycled
- carbon neutral
- manufactured from renewable energy and
- made from environmentally-managed forests.

Recycled papers

Papers have to contain a percentage of recovered fibre to be named recycled but the definition varies wildly from country to country. The recycled content is categorised into pre-consumer waste (such as wastage from the manufacturing process) and post-consumer waste (such as recycled newspapers.)

The look of recycled papers varies from an oatmeal, hairy newspaper through to very white and smooth, depending on the amount and quality of the recycled material used in manufacturing. Some are 100% recycled, while others mix recycled material with virgin pulp to improve the consistency.

Carbon neutral papers

Carbon neutral papers are manufactured with a commitment to reduce net carbon emissions to zero – that is, all emissions generated are equal to those eliminated. The carbon footprint of the manufacturing process is measured, then emissions are lessened by reducing energy requirements or using 'green energy'. The remaining emissions are offset through credits. The Kyoto Protocol mandates that these offsets must be 'real, verifiable and additional to what would otherwise occurred'.

Renewable energy

Renewable energy papers are produced using sources that are naturally replenished. Paper mills around the world use power from solar, hydroelectric, biomass, wave and the wind.

Environmentally-managed forests

The majority of mills have detailed procurement policies and independent data that stipulates that their pulp has been sourced from responsibly managed forest (that is, no old growth logging). The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) are two leading fibre or wood certifications.

Chlorine Free Pulp Should mean TCF (Totally Chlorine Free) pulp, but may also refer to ECF (Elemental Chlorine Free) pulp.

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