

Sustainability is using resources wisely and engaging in actions that (1) are environmentally friendly, socially responsible, and financially feasible; and (2) benefit present and future generations.



Purchasing Pup e-News



Forests or paper towels?

Most paper towels and facial tissues are made from virgin paper. This means no recycled content is used to make a product that is thrown away after just one use. What a waste! Demand for disposable paper products like tissue and paper towels is growing but instead of incorporating more recycled content into their products many paper companies are clear-cutting forests for virgin wood fiber. Clear-cut logging is not just a problem in less developed countries. Many forests are also being destroyed in the [U.S. and Canada](#). The manufacturing process of tissues and paper towels often involves chlorine bleach to make the product brighter. This chlorine bleach ends up in our air and water and is highly toxic to people and fish. You can help at your office by using less and buying tissues and paper towels made from recycled content.

The **impact** of our disposable paper dependence

- ▶▶ Every year the average employee uses [2,400 to 3,000](#) paper towels while at work
- ▶▶ It takes [17 trees and more than 20,000 gallons of water](#) to make one ton of paper towels
- ▶▶ If every U.S. household replaced just one roll of virgin fiber paper towels with 100% recycled ones, [we could save 544,000 trees](#)
- ▶▶ In the U.S. we use over [250 billion facial tissues](#) each year
- ▶▶ If every U.S. household replaced just one box of virgin fiber facial tissues with 100% recycled ones, we [could save 163,000 trees](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ☺ Remind coworkers that paper towels come from trees and to not take more than they need. Post your own message on paper towel dispensers or use these [handy stickers](#)
- ☺ Replace paper towels with washcloths and reusable towels in the office kitchen or break room
- ☺ Use the [shake and fold](#) method after washing hands
- ☺ Choose hand dryers instead of paper towels when possible

Select eco-friendly paper products

- ♣ They perform just as well as standard tissues and paper towels
- ♣ Buy tissues and paper towels made with a high amount of recycled content
- ♣ Look for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo on all paper products
- ♣ Buy tissues labeled totally chlorine-free (TCF) or processed chlorine-free (PCF)

