

Recycled Products

Company:
PaperNuts
(Toronto, Canada)
www.papernuts.com

Product:
Paper-based packaging

Recycled content:
100-percent recycled paper

Target market:
People who need ship stuff

Sending a package containing delicate items over long distances often requires something to soften the blows from the rough handling that inevitably accompanies the prolonged haul. Polystyrene foam packing, typically called "peanuts," is often criticized for coming from oil and can be hard to recycle. Food-based materials like cornstarch can attract vermin and break down during shipping.

Responding to these packaging options, a company out of Toronto hopes to offer an alternative. PaperNuts are designed to provide a cushy way to protect goods, while having a lower impact on the environment. The nuts are a loose-fill packaging material made from 100-percent recycled paper and are fully recyclable and compostable. Their interlocking configuration is designed to ensure that the PaperNuts sit tightly against the items in the package. The nuts also expand naturally during shipping to ensure that the item being shipped is snug and secure.



Company:
The Ford Motor Company
(Detroit, Michigan)
www.ford.com

Product:
EcoLon cylinder caps

Recycled content:
100-percent post-consumer recycled nylon carpet

Target market:
Various industrial applications, particularly automotive

Ford is putting 4.1 million pounds of recycled carpet in its Escape, Fusion, Mustang and F-150 models in the form of its EcoLon material. Drawing its feedstock from recovered nylon resin, EcoLon is made from 100-percent recycled carpet and is being used by the automotive giant as cylinder caps in the car's engines.

EcoLon was developed by Wellman Engineering Resins and is manufactured by Dana Holdings Corporation. Wellman grinds used nylon carpeting into fiber and recaptures it through a proprietary process, resulting in usable resin that is molded into cylinder head covers by Dana.

Ford is trumpeting the environmental impact of using EcoLon, stating that by putting it in its cars it has diverted 985,000 square-yards of carpet from landfills, enough to fill almost 154 football fields, while keeping more than 430,000 gallons of oil from being consumed.



Company:
Sea Bags
(Freeport, Maine)
www.seabags.com

Product:
Bags

Recycled content:
100-percent recycled sails

Target market:
General consumer

Sea Bags is a business in Freeport, Maine that makes hand-sewn bags and other products from boat sails whose days of flapping in the winds over the frigid and unforgiving North Atlantic waters have come to an end.

The totes made by Sea Bags come in a wide array of designs. Many of the bags are adorned with nautical motifs, including seagulls, anchors, whales, surf and other embellishments. If you want a particularly sturdy bag, totes made from Kevlar are available. In addition to other burnishes, customers can also get metal stripes on their bags if they want a little bling. They even make a bag for a bottle of wine. If that's not enough options, custom bags are also available.

The company obtains its material by swapping its finished totes for old sails that are then crafted into finished bags that are suitable to be used for a trip to the grocery store, beach, a picnic or elsewhere.

Sea Bags is also involved with charitable activities, donating part of its proceeds to the SailMaine Scholarship fund for Children, the Maine Cancer Foundation and others.



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