

Mixed paper is NO LONGER a recyclable product.

Changes in Chinese material recycling markets in the past six months have caused dramatic changes in New Mexico recycling opportunities. Since China no longer accepts from the US a number of recycled materials to be repurposed, most New Mexico recycling centers have significantly reduced the range of material they will accept, or stopped recycling all together except for corrugated cardboard. Southwest US markets are insufficiently developed to create adequate demand for many recycled materials.

Two of those materials no longer accepted in our region are **Paperboard and Mixed Paper**. Paperboard is that thin cardboard packaging in which we get soft drinks, beer, cereal, toothpaste, hair coloring, and a thousand other consumer products (see examples below). Mixed paper is white office paper (unless you shred paper, more about this in a future article), magazines, slick colored newspaper fallouts, catalogs, slick junk mail, etc. If you have been recycling these types of material, you will now need to place them in your trash along with other items to be discarded, eventually to be transported to the landfill.

Blue recycling dumpsters with Mixed Paper labels on the front below the lids will be removed from sites in Lincoln County municipalities and from other trash compactor sites in the next week or two.

Please let your friends and neighbors know about these changes and, keep recycling those other things like clean No. 1 and No. 2 plastic, shredded office paper, aluminum and clean steel cans, corrugated cardboard, etc.

Next week - changes in plastic recycling. Thanks!

