

Liquid Board Packaging (LBP) Frequently Asked Questions

Aim: This document seeks to answer some of the questions we are frequently asked about liquid board packaging.

Who is Petco?

Petco Producer Responsibility Organisation NPC is a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), incorporated in 2004, that administers Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes on behalf of our members for various identified products in the packaging sector. Petco serves as a national organisation, facilitating and supporting the collection and recycling value chain, guiding packaging design, stimulating end-use markets for recycled material, and conducting various outreach and awareness initiatives.

Petco is a collective organisation, set up by our producer members to fulfil their extended producer responsibility obligations, by taking accountability for their products throughout its entire life cycle, as mandated by Section 18 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act. Petco's efforts have led to annual growth in South Africa's collection and recycling rates, diverting packaging from landfills and promoting a circular economy.

What is LBP?

The abbreviation LBP stands for **liquid board packaging**, also known as **liquid board cartons** or **cartons** or **Tetra Pak®**.

According to Mpact Recycling, an estimated 50 000 tonnes of liquid board packaging products are consumed every year in South Africa. These cartons are used to contain products like fruit juice, custard and milk and are made from a multi-layered mix of materials - mostly paperboard, together with very thin layers of plastic and aluminium.

- According to Tetra Pak, each liquid board carton contains **75% paperboard** from sustainably managed forests. It is therefore a renewable form of packaging.
- The rest of the carton is made of **20% polyethylene (plastic)** and **5% aluminium** – the layers protect the cartons' contents from light, oxygen and external moisture.

There are many different types of liquid board cartons. Here are some of them:



What are the advantages of LBP?

Here are some of the main advantages of using liquid board cartons:

- These items are lightweight and cost-effective to transport, which makes them an affordable packaging choice.
- They have an excellent product-to-package ratio, meaning that there is a large amount of product compared to the packaging material. This means less waste and more convenience, such as for storage at home.



- Because most of them are made from renewable and recyclable materials, they represent responsible environmental choices.
- They are easy to flatten after use so it takes little space in the bin and fits in your pocket/bag
- They can be recycled into new products

What does it mean when you say LBP is 'renewable'?

Because many liquid board cartons are made from paperboard sourced from sustainably managed forests, these items are described as being produced from renewable materials.

In sustainably managed forests, the harvested trees are replaced with new ones. These forests help to keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere while producing renewable wood, because the carbon remains locked in the wood and products made from it (such as paper or carton). This packaging can therefore be seen as a responsible choice.

Are liquid board cartons recyclable?

Liquid board cartons are recyclable where the adequate collection, waste management and recycling infrastructures are in place, and local criteria are met. Instead of the cartons ending up as waste in South African landfills, many are being recycled for re-use. Paper manufacturers use the long paper fibre contents of used liquid board cartons to manufacture new paper and carton products, while the other layers (the polyAl layers) are recycled into products such as plastic pallets, milk crates, clothes hangers, outdoor furniture, school desks and building materials.

What contaminates the LBP recycling chain?

The main contaminants are cartons without the aluminum lining – this is because it is difficult to remove the fibre from these cartons. In addition, these cartons are made from white board, which is not compatible with the K4 / craft (cardboard) products that our recycling partner produces.

Wine boxes **larger** than 1l are also not accepted into our recyclers recycling stream. Large wine boxes are recycled, just not in the LBP recycling stream, these are K4 with a bag inside to keep the wine e.g. 4th street wines. These wine boxes just can't be mixed in with LBP.

Mageu, Inkomazi, and sorghum beer cartons are also not accepted by our recycling partner.



How does the LBP collection and recycling process work?

How to start collecting liquid board cartons:

- Empty the cartons completely.
- Rinse the cartons (use used dishwashing water to conserve freshwater). Rinsing cartons improves the working conditions in the storage facility and it helps to reduce odours, flies and rodents while waiting to be recycled.
- Flatten the cartons before putting them in a recycling bin or bins at home, in the office and elsewhere.
- For cartons with straws or caps: push the straws back into the packs and reattach the caps before you put the cartons in a bin. This helps to reduce litter.
- Put the cartons out with other recyclables on collection day.
- Alternatively, take them to a buy-back centre or drop-off site.

Drop-off centre contact details:

Find a convenient drop-off site on our website.

What happens after the cartons are collected?

- After collection, and where not yet separated, different kinds of recyclable paper and packaging are separated from general household waste and taken to a sorting facility.
- The liquid board cartons and other recyclables are then sorted and baled.

How does the recycling process work after baling?

- Bales of liquid board cartons are fed into a hydro-pulper (a large blender that separates the paper fibre from the polyAl using water).
- Paper-making machines turn the pulp from the hydro-pulper into new paper and cardboard products.
- The polyAl component is pelletised for use in creating plastics products – mainly plastic-injection moulded products such as plastic pallets, milk crates, clothes hangers, outdoor furniture, school desks, roof tiles and other building materials.

Useful video material from around the world about LBP

- [Tetra Pak Recycling in South Africa](#)
- [Recycled products \(Tetra Pak Middle East and Africa\)](#)
- [Mpact Recycling, Liquid Packaging](#)
- [Tetra Pak - Poly-Al Recycling with Recon Polymers in The Netherlands](#)
- [The Re-Store PolyAL Display: How its Made](#)
- [Recycling of PolyAl](#)
- [Poly Al Pro: Boards with a Purpose](#)

Useful Contacts

Visit www.petco.co.za for a list of collection points, drop off sites and buy-back centres.



You could also contact some other industry bodies for general assistance or information about other material streams. Here are some of them:

- Institute of Waste Management www.iwmsa.co.za
- National Recycling Forum www.recycling.co.za
- Packaging SA www.packagingsa.co.za
- Plastics SA www.plasticsinfo.co.za

Contact Petco

Call toll free: 011 615 8875 (JHB)/ 021 794 6300 (CPT)
Email: info@petco.co.za
Website: <http://www.petco.co.za>
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