

Dear Recycle Lady



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Dear Recycle Lady,

Several times last week our morning newspaper got soaking wet in an early morning rainstorm. After drying it out, we were able to read it, but wondered if it was still recyclable. Newspaper Reader

Dear Newspaper Reader

Yes, previously wet newspapers can be recycled, as long as they are completely dry. Wet paper of any kind is not recyclable because water breaks down the fibers. Paper with broken fibers cannot be used by the recycling plants to produce new products, such as greeting cards, office paper and shoes, as well as other items. Another reason for being certain that your newspaper is totally dry is that a buyer may reject an entire batch of newspapers when only one paper is wet.

Dear Recycle Lady,

June has been a month of weddings and I have seen various things used to throw at the departure of the happy couple instead of rice, which is not a good thing to throw. I know of one couple who made their own confetti by using a hole punch to punch holes in leaves and another couple who threw lightly dried flower petals. Summer Daze

Dear Summer Daze,

I agree with you. Rice is not a good thing to throw at weddings. It is hard to clean up and bad for any birds that eat it. Plastic confetti is not a good thing either because it is not biodegradable. Paper confetti is a better option because it is biodegradable. Herbs, like lavender or rosemary, make good biodegradable confetti as they add a lovely scent to the couple's departure. Throwing flower petals in the summer, leaves in the fall and bird seed at any time are all great eco-friendly alternatives to rice and plastic confetti.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I received a stock report today in the mail that must have taken a forest of trees to print. Included in the letter about the company was information as to how to sign up for electronic delivery of these reports. I think that is a wonderful idea and I signed up for it immediately. Everyone who receives these volumes of information could help our environment by doing this one simple thing. Stockholder

Dear Stockholder,

You are absolutely correct. Electronic Delivery of reports is definitely an excellent way to help our environment. Stock reports come in many sizes, but most of them are fairly large. Hopefully, all such reports will soon be sent electronically and save all the paper required to produce them. Paper is made from trees, which are a renewable resource. Trees, plants and grass are the lungs of the earth, breathing in Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and breathing out pure oxygen. Trees help to produce clean water by preventing soil from eroding into our waterways and by reducing stormwater runoff; they help clean our air by absorbing pollutants and they help regulate our climate. Perhaps we could all plant a tree to help out Mother Nature.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.