

## What is a Carton?

Cartons are a type of packaging for food and beverage products you can purchase at the store. They are easy to recognize and are available in two types—shelf-stable and refrigerated.

Cartons are mainly made from paper in the form of paperboard, as well as thin layers of polyethylene (plastic). The shelf stable ones have also a thin layer of aluminum. Shelf-stable cartons contain on average 74% paper, 22% polyethylene and 4% aluminum. Refrigerated cartons contain about 80% paper and 20% polyethylene.

### Products in Shelf-stable cartons

- ◊ Juice
- ◊ Milk
- ◊ Soy and grain milk
- ◊ Soup and broth
- ◊ Wine



### Products in Refrigerated cartons

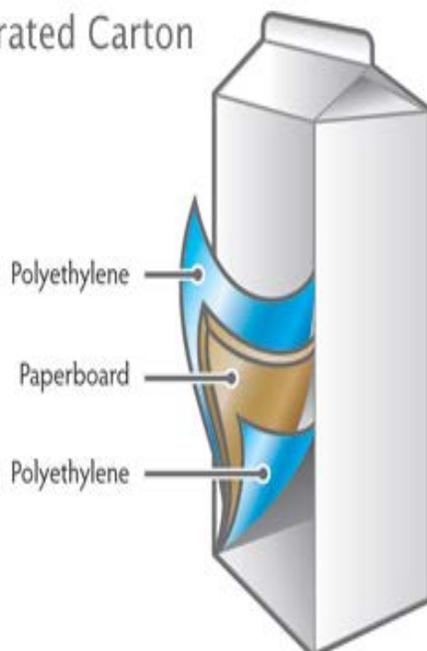
- ◊ Milk
- ◊ Juice
- ◊ Cream
- ◊ Egg substitutes
- ◊ Soy and grain milk



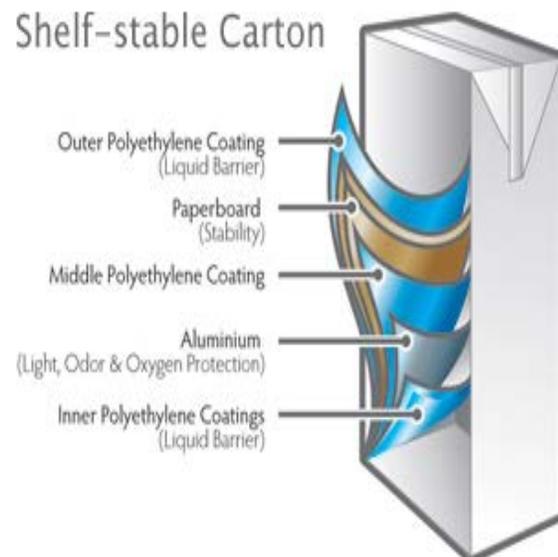
## The Makeup of a Carton Package

Cartons are mainly made from paper in the form of paperboard, as well as thin layers of polyethylene (plastic). The shelf stable cartons have also a thin layer for aluminum as an oxygen and light barrier. Shelf-stable cartons contain on average 74% paper, 22% polyethylene and 4% aluminum. Refrigerated cartons contain about 80% paper and 20% polyethylene.

### Refrigerated Carton



### Shelf-stable Carton



## Carton Packaging Facts and Info

The Carton Council members are dedicated to environmentally preferable practices throughout the entire life-cycle of a carton package. By producing sustainable and carbon smart products made mainly from a renewable resource; consumers can wisely select cartons as one of the best package choices to meet their food and environmental needs.

- ◊ Cartons are mainly made from paper. The paper in our cartons comes from growing forests where trees are replaced by new ones and biodiversity is maintained. None of the resources used in our cartons come from old growth trees or rainforests.
- ◊ Cartons are light-weight and have a great product to package ratio. If you choose a product in a carton, you are taking home an average of 94% product and only 6% package.
- ◊ Products packaged in cartons are transportation efficient. In general, the same amount of product can be shipped in fewer trucks. Fewer trucks = less fuel = less green house gas emissions.
- ◊ Big or small, recycle them all! Cartons are recyclable, where collection and facilities exist.

## Why Recycle?

Recycling means reducing waste – breaking down an old product and using it for something new. By recycling, you are conserving energy and natural resources as well as protecting the environment. The demand for recycled paper from cartons decreases the strain on natural resources and provides a market for recycled goods.

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## How are Cartons Recycled?

Once you place your cartons into a curbside recycling bin or bring them to a local recycling facility, where do they go?

First, cartons are separated from other materials to be recycled. This process occurs at a material recycling facility, where cartons are separated & shipped to a paper mill.

Fiber in the cartons is converted into pulp in a hydropulper (think giant kitchen blender), which in turn is made into useful products.

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## What is Made From Cartons (and how can you help)?

Recycled cartons become the raw material for a variety of new paper products and building materials. By purchasing products with recycled content, you are generating the demand for recycled materials.

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