

EA survey of the effect of printing inks and adhesive resins on the recycling of paper

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ABSTRACT

The environmental objectives for the resin industry have focused on the elimination of solvents and the move to aqueous systems. In addition, the advent of computers has led to an increase in the use of digital printing processes. These trends have compromised the recyclability of paper. Most of the eco-toxicity of the effluent generated by paper recycling plants originates in the toxicity of certain components in the printing inks. In the adhesives industry, there has been a growing use of pressure-sensitive adhesives in homes and offices.

The increased use of mailing campaigns, magazine supplements and glued inserts has led to increased levels of sizing, coating and other finishes, which have also resulted in difficulties in the processing and use of recycled papers.

Paper, printing inks and adhesives are all part of the same value chain, and environmental issues and recycling concerns everybody. There should be greater co-operation between the resin industry and the paper recycling industry to ensure sustainability for the value chain.
