



# Nez Perce Tribe Recycling Program Newsletter—September 2025

'apaqa'áño' 'ee kaa 'epeqícxnu' wéetesne

- Respect and take care of the earth.



Nez Perce Tribe Water Resources Division - Solid Waste and Recycling Program

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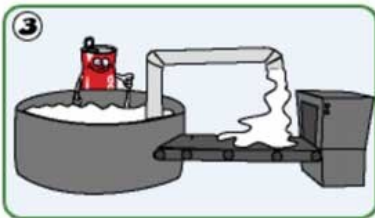
## Ever Wonder How Paper is Recycled?



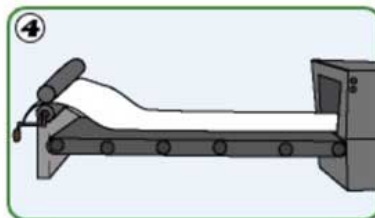
Paper is taken from the bin and deposited in a large recycling container along with paper from other recycling bins.



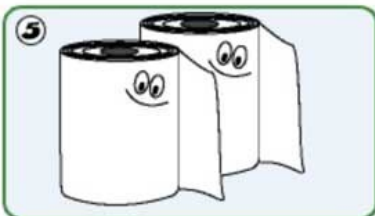
The paper is taken to a recycling plant where it is separated into types and grades.



The separated paper is then washed with soapy water to remove inks, plastic film, staples and glue. The paper is put into a large holder where it is mixed with water to create 'slurry'.



By adding different materials to the slurry, different paper products can be created, such as cardboard, newsprints or office paper.



The slurry is spread using large rollers into large thin sheets.



The paper is left to dry, and then it is rolled up ready to be cut and sent back to the shops.

## "Talkin' Trash"

### How Long Does It Take Trash to Decompose?

Paper towel – 2-4 weeks  
Paper bag – 1 month  
Newspaper – 1.5 months  
Apple core – 2 months  
Cardboard – 2 months  
Orange peel – 6 months  
Milk carton – 5 years  
Cigarette butt – 10-12 years  
Leather shoes – 25-40 years  
Styrofoam plastic cup – 50 years  
Plastic container – 50-80 years  
Plastic bottle – 450 years  
Disposable diaper – 550 years  
Monofilament fishing line – 800 years  
Plastic bag – 200-1000 years



## Lapwai Recycling Schedule

### Community Recycling

September 4 & 18

Páyniwaas Parking Lot, 11 am—1 pm

### Office Collections

September 11 & 25

In the Spotlight

## We are hiring a Solid Waste & Recycling Tech!

Looking for a relatively easy full-time job in Lapwai that is not an office job and is doing good things to help the community and the environment? See the job ad in or go to Human Resources and get an application for HR-25-166.



<https://www.nptwaterresources.org/solid-waste/solid-waste-program/>

