

Fact bite #57



Paper & board coatings

1/5
→



Food
Packaging
Forum

In order to make paper & board packaging water- or grease-repellant so it can store wet foods, a coating is usually applied on its surface. In many packaging products today, this coating is made of some type of plastic. According to our FCCmigex database, 439 chemicals have been found in or migrating from these coatings into food, including PFOA, various phthalates, BPA, and more.

2/5
→

These coatings can also make the sorting and recycling process much more difficult, since they have to be separated from the paper fibers. Paper & board packaging with non-biodegradable plastic coatings cannot be composted, even though many consumers may not realize the plastic is even there.

3/5
→

While some environmental impacts may be reduced when using paper-based packaging compared to single-use plastics, they are both still single-use products. The evidence shows that reusable packaging can have the lowest impacts when regularly returned.

4/5
→

Highly inert materials like stainless steel, glass, and glazed ceramics do not require coatings, are fundamentally less chemically complex, and therefore transfer far fewer chemicals into food.

5/5



Food
Packaging
Forum

Fact bite #57
Paper & board coatings