

Facts about Paper Recycling

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Inkjet Prints Are Not Deinkable:

Newspapers and Direct Mail by Inkjet Head towards Ecological Dead End

Inkjet prints cannot be recycled for new newsprint or copying paper just as old newspapers or magazines. The **ink cannot be removed** during the recycling process; it leaves a dark shade for the new paper. The recycling paper mills can still cope with single inkjet prints from households or offices. But what printer manufacturers plan to introduce at the “drupa” fair poses a danger to the paper recycling cycle: Direct mail or newspapers printed with inkjet act like a **sponge full of ink** – and even in small amounts this kind of printed products can cause the system of graphic paper recycling to collapse.

For a couple of years INGEDE has been trying to solve this problem together with printer manufacturers and other members of the paper chain, but without any success yet. On the contrary – even printer manufacturers that had focused on **excellent recyclable dry toners** so far now also offer inkjet systems for high volumes, blaming market requirements for this move.

“We have to inform publishers and mailing designers”, says INGEDE’s Press Officer Axel Fischer. “**Even a single publisher** investing in this kind of equipment could severely harm paper recycling all over Europe”. INGEDE plans an intensive information campaign in the forefront of the “drupa” fair, the world’s largest exhibition about printing and paper early this summer in Düsseldorf in Germany. “We have to make clear that inkjet printed news and direct mail do not fit into the higher-grade paper recycling system”, Fischer says. That is why possibly this kind of printed products have to be clearly visible marked as “not recyclable”. Fischer adds: “Today, when climate protection has top political priority, **undeinkable print products are a gross aberration.**”

At a **European Round Table** representatives of the paper industry discuss these issues with members of the digital printer industry already. For the first time, this year also inkjet manufacturers want to join the talks. INGEDE hopes that this helps at least in the long run to direct further development towards better deinkable systems. “Already when designing a print product, a publisher or as marketing agent has to take recycling into concern”, Fischer says.

Dry toners perform very well in the paper recycling process that originally has been developed for the removal of offset and gravure inks. A series of tests by different European research institutes on behalf of INGEDE has confirmed these findings.

INGEDE is an association of leading European paper manufacturers founded in 1989. INGEDE aims at promoting utilisation of recovered graphic paper (newsprint, magazines and office paper) and improving the conditions for an extended use of recovered paper for the production of graphic and hygiene papers.

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**International Association of the Deinking Industry (INGEDE)
Public Relations**

Oetztaler St 5 B • 81373 München • Germany
Tel. +49 (89) 769 2332 • E-Mail info@ingede.com

This press release can also be found in the internet: www.ingede.com.