

THE INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC. (IGI), a world leader in refining and marketing of wax based products, is committed to preserving the environment. We continue to initiate new products and programs designed to minimize our impact on the environment.

Composting represents an important strategy in diverting waste streams from landfills and returning organic content to soils. This process is a crucial component of the recycling strategy designed to reduce North America's reliance upon landfills for solid-waste disposal. What is not widely known is that properly formulated paraffin waxed packaging can be used to produce high quality compost.

Published studies conducted by McGill University (1) and the University of Guelph (2) confirmed that paraffin wax-based coatings are inherently biodegradable and readily decompose under normal outdoor exposure conditions, as well as in a composting process. These studies covered the use of paraffin waxes in the high volume applications of food service wrappers and treated corrugated boxes.

These studies supported previous work done by TNO laboratories (3) showing paraffin waxes and paraffin-based coatings are inherently biodegradable according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development Guidelines. These studies showed greater than 60% degradation after 28 days and near complete degradation after the 84 day test.

Paraffin waxes are unique as coating materials because they provide excellent moisture barrier properties. Since they are not polymers they are biodegradable by nature.

From corrugated boxes through treated waxed food wraps, paraffin waxes remain an economical, efficient, and environmentally viable barrier material.

(1) February 1993 TAPPI Journal

(2) May 1995 TAPPI Journal

(3) Hanstviet, A. O., TNO Division of Technology for Society Report No. R90/243a, Delfh, 1990, pp. 17-33