Mail is Recyclable.

Here is the proof.

94%
of Americans have community paper recycling access

79%
have curbside paper recycling at home

5-7X
paper fibers can be recycled before disposal

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

- ✓ Magazines, catalogs, bills, cards, and direct mail all belong in the paper recycling stream
- ✓ Staples and paper clips are removed during the recycling process
- ✓ Window envelopes are recyclable — no need to remove the plastic window before recycling
- ✓ Paper fibers can typically be recycled 5 to 7 times
- ✓ 79% of Americans have curbside paper recycling at home

Consumers do not need to remove plastic windows, staples, or paper clips before recycling. These are separated during the pulping process at the mill.

ENVELOPES ARE PART OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



MYTH vs FACT

MYTH	FACT
Window envelopes can't be recycled because of the plastic window.	Window envelopes are recyclable. The plastic film is removed during the pulping process — consumers don't need to do anything.
Direct mail doesn't belong in the recycling bin.	Mail, including bills, catalogs, cards, and ad mail, is listed among paper products widely accepted for recycling
Non-paper elements like coatings or adhesives make mail non-recyclable.	Non-fiber elements may be challenges for mills, but being a challenge does not make a product non-recyclable.

Scan Here for the Research

Citations: AF&PA (2021–2023)

All statistics reflect the most current publicly available research as of May 2026.
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Institute for Environmental Studies