



Peeing Green

Why are we cutting trees down to make toilet paper?

Habit. In the olden days there seemed to be limitless trees to harvest for human use. Today we have already cut down 97% of the old growth forests in the United States. Trees are the earth's lungs converting Carbon Dioxide into oxygen. They provide homes for numerous species and are part of fragile inter-dependent ecosystems. Trees are living creatures in their own right. Do we really want to cut trees to make toilet paper?

What is the alternative?

By purchasing toilet paper made from recycled materials and non chlorine bleach, we can slow the destruction of our forests and reduce the amount of toxins in the environment.

Is chlorine bleach dangerous?

Yes. Chlorine bleach is used to make our toilet paper white. The production and use of chlorine bleach creates dangerous toxins such as dioxin, furans and other organochlorines. Once loose in the environment, these chemicals accumulate in both people and animals. Hundreds of studies have shown a direct link between dioxin exposure and cancer, birth defects, and developmental and reproductive disorders. Toilet paper that is bleached with Sodium Hydro Sulfite, a nontoxic biodegradable bleach made from salt and oxygen, is much better for the planet than chlorine bleach.

Why Switch?

If every household in the U.S replaced just one 4-pack of 500 sheet virgin fiber bathroom tissues with 100% recycled ones, we could save:

1.2 million trees

5.1 million cubic feet of landfill space, equal to over 5000 full garbage trucks

537 million gallons of water, a year's supply for over 15,300 families of four (It takes much more water to convert trees into paper than it takes to convert office and home paper into new toilet paper.)

How do I Switch?

The next time you go shopping, look for these three things when you buy toilet paper: "Made from 100% recycled fibers", "80% minimum post-consumer content", and "No chlorine bleaching"

To purchase online, visit:

Green Home – www.greenhome.com

Gaiam – www.gaiam.com

Seventh Generation – www.seventhgeneration.com (type in zip code for nearest location)

Treecycle – www.treecycle.com

Source: Green Sangha and Seventh Generation