WHAT'S THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OPTION FOR MY RING BINDER?

Smart Presentation

As with so many environmental questions, the answer is "it depends". Increasing biodegradability might increase carbon footprint, increasing the recycled content might reduce the lifespan of the product. Here's our handy guide to environmental considerations when you're choosing stationery:

	Recycled Content	Recyclability / Reusability	Durability	Biodegradability	Chemical Composition
Paper over board	*** 100% recycled paper available Board is always 100% recycled	*** Board can be reused by us Laminate prevents recyclability Mechanism can be reused by us or recycled off-site	** Tends to get tatty quicker, hence have a shorter lifespan Eliminating laminates makes a "greener" product but suffers wear and tear more readily	* or **** Vinyl laminates are typically used and these do not biodegrade (see vinyl) PVA glue in board production is biodegradable Cellulose laminates are biodegradable but are costly & require vastly more energy to manufacture	* or *** Chlorine is widely used to bleach paper PVC laminate (see below) PVA glue is a synthetic polymer used in board production & in gluing the paper to the board
Vinyl	** Up to 50% recycled vinyl available Board is always 100% recycled	*** Board can be reused by us or recycled off-site Mechanism can be reused by us or recycled off-site Vinyl can be recycled into drainpipes etc longevity	**** Very durable, being highly water, friction & grease resistant	* The board will biodegrade but the vinyl will not	* The chemical structure of PVC contains carbon, hydrogen & chlorine. Plasticizers are also added Considered moderate to high impact
Polypropylene	**** Closed loop 100% recycled PP available	**** Polypropylene can be reused by us, closed-loop recycled by us or recycled into other plastic products Mechanism can be reused by us or recycled off-site longevity	**** Very durable, being highly water, friction & grease resistant	** Standard polypropylene will not biodegrade Oxobiodegradable polypropylene can be used but is costly	**** Chemically simple plastic – only carbon and hydrogen. Considered low to moderate impact.

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