ood <i>Mews FOR THE ENVIRONMENT Tree-free is the future of tissue paper!

More and more companies are offering tree-free, eco-friendly alternatives to regular toilet paper as well as napkins, paper towels, and other tissue paper products. Many of these eco-conscious companies also choose not to use chlorine, a toxic chemical used to bleach paper that pollutes the environment and can cause cancer.

If we all switched to using tree-free toilet paper and other tissue products, we could:

- Stop the deforestation of an estimated 99 million trees annually
- Reduce global warming
- Save tons of water used for manufacturing
- Save energy used for manufacturing
- Reduce the pollution of our air and waterways (rivers, lakes, oceans, etc.)
- **Preserve the habitats** of countless plant and animal species, not to mention our own!

Tree-free toilet paper can be made with different materials. Often, it's a combination of **sugarcane bagasse** (the fibrous byproduct left after extracting the sugar) and **bamboo**, which happens to create some of the best paper on the market because it's:

- SOFT softer than most recycled paper products
- STRONG bamboo and sugarcane fibers are both very strong
- **BIODEGRADABLE** bamboo and sugarcane fibers quickly decompose back into the earth

• SUSTAINABLE & RAPIDLY GROWABLE - both bamboo and sugarcane are grasses and grow fast: bamboo can grow 100 inches per month, sugarcane grows 12 inches per month, whereas timber grows only 2 inches per month; bamboo doesn't need to be replanted as the cut stem grows back in a few months

• VIRGIN FIBERS - bamboo and sugarcane products don't require heavy bleaching of inks and dyes as recycled paper products do

• *ECO* - sugarcane bagasse is widely available but in many cases discarded and burned, releasing pollutants into the air. So using sugarcane bagasse for paper prevents wasting and burning.

Did you know?

Toilet paper alone destroys 27,000 trees per day globally!

Ordinary toilet paper contains mercury, dioxin, BPA, and BPS, which are chemicals associated with environmental pollution and health problems such as cancer.





Bamboo (above) and sugarcane stalks

Some companies, such as Nimbus Eco, state that they grow the bamboo and sugarcane on farms and harvest by hand, thus reducing waste and carbon emissions. One award-winning manufacturer in China, Tralin, uses straw from harvested grain crops, which would otherwise be discarded.

Supreme Master Ching Hai said that in the future, we can certainly make use of gardening and pruning leftovers or cut grass or wheat, etc., instead of burning them.

Going tree-free is surely better for the environment (and our health, too)!

Here are son	e of the companies we kno treeless paper products.	w that offer
Feel fi	ee to look for more in your local	area.
Shandong Tralin Group (China) http://en.tralin.com Made with: straw pulp Unbleached		
Kcrown Green Choice (Australia) www.kcrown.com.au/greenchoice/inde Made with: sugarcane bagasse and bar Use of chlorine is unknown	ex.html www.nimbuseco.	cane bagasse and bamboo
Ology (USA; sold only at Walgreens www.walgreens.com/q/ology Made with: sugarcane bagasse and bar Use hydrogen peroxide, a non-chlorine	www.truegreen2. hboo Made with: sugar	
Kora (available on Amazon.com) http://korabrand.com Made with: bamboo Chlorine-free bleaching	www.savedatree.	oo, straw, reed, cotton unknown
	Bleaching Terms to Know	
<i>TCF (Total Chlorine Free)</i> No chlorine or related compounds were used. Common TCF bleach: hydrogen peroxide.	<i>PCF (Process Chlorine Free)</i> Recycled paper that was rebleached without any chlorine; however, the original paper may have been bleached with chlorine.	<i>ECF (Elemental Chlorine Free)</i> Although no chlorine gas was used, chlorine-related compounds were used, reducing but not fully eliminating toxins like dioxin.

We thank Supreme Master Ching Hai for advising us to share this information and for encouraging us through her *Message on Eco-Alternatives to Using Paper* (click here to read).

May we all do our part to protect the precious planet and make it a more livable, beautiful home for future generations!

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