

*Are cardboard
coffins really
environmentally
friendly
and cheaper?*

Another Industry Initiative from



Ashton Manufacturing

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Cardboard or Timber?

MAKING YOUR CHOICE EASIER

Are cardboard coffins really environmentally friendly?

- In reality cardboard coffins have a more significant carbon footprint than you may think. Energy, water and a cocktail of chemicals have to be mixed with cardboard to make it strong enough to be used as a coffin. Plus the cost may be more than you would pay for a solid plantation timber coffin.

CARDBOARD COFFINS

Processes involved in recycled cardboard production include –

- ✗ Mechanical pulping of timber fibres with water.
- ✗ Screening and cleaning of pulp to remove any contaminants, which are then dumped.
- ✗ Using water and strong chemicals to de-ink the pulp.
- ✗ Washing the pulp in vats to further remove thick scum.
- ✗ Bleaching, if required, using peroxide.
- ✗ The final leftover waste is called sludge. The sludge is then buried or incinerated.

Source: Wikipedia.org

TIMBER COFFINS

- ✓ Timber and Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) coffins are made from plantation pine forest timbers (Not native forest).
- ✓ Plantation pine forests are a renewable resource, from a sustainable industry.
- ✓ MDF is made by pressing plantation pine fibres together with glue and heat in specialised machines. Once the boards are made they can be built into coffins.
- ✓ In reality timber and MDF coffins require fewer chemicals, glues, energy and water to produce than cardboard coffins.

“In the wood panels sector, we’re off to a good start, as wood from managed forests is a significant carbon sink, and wood products require less energy to produce than many other materials.”

*Dr Alan Halligan
Australian Wood Panels Association*

