

TOILET PAPER TESTING

Test procedure:

1. Fill ½ gallon jar with cold water to within about 2" of top.
2. Fold 4 sheets of TP into a square the size of a single sheet and drop in water.
3. Wait 2 hours and shake jar for 20 seconds.
4. Repeat shaking at 6 hours and at 24 hours.
5. Price reflects what I paid locally and varies widely, and is expressed in cents per 100 sheets (xx.x/100). Obviously, the best prices were obtained when the products were on sale. My target is 10.0/100, but it's getting harder to find at that price point.

RESULTS:

Angel Soft 2-ply: (Georgia-Pacific) 16.8/100

At 2 hours disintegrated completely, even more finely than MD. Debris separates very slowly, some floats to the surface and some settles to the bottom. No apparent further disintegration at 6 hours. At 24 hours it appears to be a little more finely disintegrated than at 6 hours and debris settles to the bottom. *March 2008*

Camping World catalog: Free

Since there is no longer a Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalog to test, I chose what was at hand. Good 'ol Camping World sends you and me these things on a regular basis, so I had one handy. Not only do the pages not break down, I strongly suspect they do not work well as wipers. I didn't test that aspect. Feel free to do your own testing, and report your results to me. I will cheerfully add your findings to my data, if I can stop laughing long enough to see the keyboard. *March 2008*

Charmin Basic: (P&G)

Charmin Ultra Soft: (P&G) 31.0/100

At 2 hours it took some serious shaking and did not break down very well. Still relatively large pieces. Remains suspended and does not settle out. At 6 hours it again took vigorous shaking to break down the large pieces still

remaining. This time they were much smaller, similar to other brands at 2 hours. This time the debris settled to the bottom. At 24 hours this tissue has broken down about as well as others. *March 2008*

Charmin Ultra Strong: (P&G) 41.6/100

Not tested

Based on the results with Charmin Ultra Soft, I didn't see much point in testing their Ultra Strong. You might want to try this stuff if you need a new RV cover or a tarp for your boat, although you could probably buy real canvas cheaper.

Corncobs: Cost unknown

I was unable to locate any corncobs for testing. Everyone I knew was fresh out, and they're not available at Wal-Mart. But my common sense tells me they would probably not break down very readily. That based on the fact that in times when they were commonly used for this task, they were routinely soaked in water prior to use to make them "softer." I suspect that step was skipped during winter in places like Minnesota and North Dakota.

Cottonelle: (Kimberly-Clark) 34.8/100 (27.0/100 in 12 pack)

Cottonelle Ultra: (Kimberly-Clark) 41.6/100

Not tested.

See Quilted Northern Ultra. Same applies here.

Kirkland: (Costco brand) xx.x/100

L.L. Bean catalog: Free

See Camping World catalog. Identical results. *March 2008*

MD : (Georgia-Pacific) 9.5/100 (sale price)

At 2 hours disintegrated completely. Debris settled to bottom fairly quickly. At 6 hours it appeared to disintegrate slightly more. No discernable change at 24 hours. A double roll has recently shrunk from 396 sheets to 352 sheets. *February 2008*

Quilted Northern: (Georgia-Pacific) 26.0/100 (27.8/100 in 12 pack)

Not tested.

Now there's a novel idea. Charge more in the economy package. Standard package is 6 rolls of 352 sheets. Economy package is 12 rolls of 300 sheets. Slimy marketing at its best. Way to go Northern.

Quilted Northern Ultra: (Georgia-Pacific) 49.9/100 (41.6/100 in 12 pack)

Not tested

I can't bring myself to spend this kind of money just to test something I would never buy anyway. And apparently none of my friends are foolish enough to spend this much just to wipe either.

Safeway generic: 8.0/100 (6.8/100 in 12 pack)

Scott 1000: (Kimberly-Clark) 10.5/100 (8.8/100 in 12 pack)

Scott Extra Soft: (Kimberly-Clark) 21.0/100

Scott Naturals: (Kimberly-Clark)

Not tested

Scott Rapid-Dissolving: (Kimberly-Clark)

Not tested

Softly Ultra: (Safeway brand) 11.9/100 (sale price)

Soft'n Gentle: (Georgia-Pacific) Cost unknown

At 2 hours disintegrated completely. Debris settled to bottom very quickly.

At 6 hours disintegrated noticeably more. At 24 hours it is very finely disintegrated, and almost appears as if it has partially dissolved. ***March 2008***

White Cloud:

The story:

Toilet paper seems to be a rather common subject of discussion here, and though everyone seems to have an opinion, there is a complete lack of empirical evidence to support those opinions. On one end of the spectrum there are those who claim you should NEVER use anything but TP specifically designated for RV use. On the other end of the spectrum are those who claim it makes no difference, and you can use whatever you have on hand. I suspected the truth would be somewhere in between.

Having been told on multiple occasions that I have sh** for brains, and having a background in science, I came to the realization that I would be the perfect candidate to conduct testing on this delicate subject. It's a sh***y job, but I figured somebody has to do it.

My first task was to research what was available on the market. When I started, I had no idea there are so many different products available. There is obviously no such thing as one size fits all when it comes to American . . . uh . . . backsides. Americans have an incredibly wide variety of brands and levels of quality to choose from, seemingly ranging from sandpaper to something resembling clouds. But my only concern would be to determine how well the various wipers would break down once immersed in the water of a holding tank. Onward and upward . . . uhh . . . downward we go, into that nether world known as *the black tank*.

I'm sure my friends and family were convinced I had completely lost what few marbles I still have when I started asking them what brand TP they use and asking for samples, even though I was asking for clean, unused samples. Think about that. When is the last time someone asked you for a sample of your toilet paper?

The obvious place to start was at home, so my first test was conducted on what I had on hand. That also served to set the parameters of testing for the rest of the brands. Ultimately, I ended up buying most of these myself. My circle of friends and family seem to not be very diverse in their choice of TP. The upside of that is that I now have a several year supply of TP on hand. Hopefully I'll live long enough to use it all.

Conclusions:

It all boils down to this. With the exception of a few brands which could probably be used for body armor, they all break down very readily once immersed in water. That's all that really matters. Avoid the failed brands, buy whatever is cheapest, and don't waste your money on the stuff at the camping store.

Now . . . if someone is willing to conduct the “*finger test*” on these various brands, I would be happy to write up the results. You'll have to call me with your results, because I don't want you in the same room with me and I don't want you touching my stuff.