



10 WAYS TO REDUCE PLASTICS IN LABORATORIES

IS YOUR PACKAGING RECYCLABLE?

Packaging doesn't need to be incinerated. Consider if there are ways to avoid excess clinical waste, e.g. only contaminated items through clinical waste.

CAN SUPPLIERS RETAKE YOUR PACKAGING?

A service offered by several suppliers so that plastic waste is reused. Engage with suppliers to see available options.

DIY REAGENTS/KITS

Common reagents and materials can be produced on site, e.g. pouring your own gels for DNA electrophoresis.

PLASTIC VS. GLASS: MAKE THE SWITCH FROM SINGLE-USE PLASTICS TO REUSABLE GLASS

CAN PRODUCTS BE BOUGHT IN BULK?

Combine and share with other labs. Products unused in one lab could be passed on to another.

ARE GLOVES REQUIRED?

Research in the past has been successful without gloves. Choose appropriate gloves for the task.

- a. Can gloves be reused between experiments
- b. Consider balance between glove thickness and reuse that is best for your work

ARE YOU ABLE TO REUSE LEFTOVER PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR OTHER THINGS IN THE LAB?

CAN YOUR PLASTICS BE DOWNSIZED?

There are alternatives which perform the same task with less plastic, e.g. smaller test tube sizes.

TIP BOXES: CAN YOU RELOAD TIP BOXES?

Explore options with suppliers about take-back schemes or aim to recycle non-contaminated tip boxes.

PURCHASE 'FLEXIBLE' KITS

Many labs use kits for standard processes- 'purchase kits' allow you to buy the contents separately- avoiding waste bottles/reagents.