







Zero Waste Education and Resource Package For Health Care Staff



This document will introduce what is currently happening with health care recycling in the lower mainland of British Columbia. You will learn about the challenges we face, how to recycle properly and improve the recycling program in your area.

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Introduction

The information in this package is intended for the following health care sites that are owned and operated by the lower mainland health care organizations:

Fraser Health, Providence Health Care, Provincial Health Services Authority, and Vancouver Coastal Health

FH	Abbotsford Hospital and Cancer Centre	PHC	Holy Family
FH	Arbutus Place	PHC	Mount Saint Joseph Hospital
FH	Burnaby Hospital	PHC	St. Paul's Hospital
FH	Chilliwack General Hospital	PHC	St. Vincents Brock Fahrni
FH	Chilliwack Health Centre	PHC	St. Vincents Honoria Conway
FH	Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre	PHC	St. Vincents Langara
FH	Czorny Alzheimer Centre	PHC	Youville
FH	Jim Pattison Outpatient Care	VCH	Berkley Care Centre
FH	Langley Memorial Hospital	VCH	Bowling Green
FH	Mission Memorial Hospital	VCH	Cedarview Lodge
FH	MSA Cottage & Worthington Pavilions	VCH	Dogwood Lodge
FH	Parkholm Place	VCH	George Pearson Centre
FH	Peace Arch Hospital	VCH	GF Strong
FH	Queens Park Care Centre	VCH	Lions Gate Hospital
FH	Ridge Meadows Hospital	VCH	Margaret Fulton
FH	Royal Columbian Hospital	VCH	Minoru Residence
FH	Surrey Memorial Hospital	VCH	Powell River General Hospital
FH	Timber Creek	VCH	Richmond Hospital
FH	Yale Road	VCH	Richmond Lions Manor
PHSA	BC Cancer Surrey	VCH	Sechelt Hospital
PHSA	BC Cancer Vancouver	VCH	Squamish Hospital
PHSA	BC Cancer Research Centre	VCH	Sumac Place
PHSA	BC Children's and Women's Hospital	VCH	UBC Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health
PHSA	Sunnyhill Health Care Centre	VCH	UBC Hospital
		VCH	Vancouver General Hospital

Recycling in health care

Why is recycling different in health care?

Health care facilities are in a unique position when it comes to recycling. Unlike at home or in an office, we produce biomedical waste which limits what we can recycle. Although there are several recycling vendors in the lower mainland, currently there is only one that is willing to accept recyclables from hospitals.

We must be vigilant against biomedical contamination in the recycling stream. Recycling staff sort recyclables by hand and could be at risk of injury or infection if biomedical items are included with the recycling. Due to past incidents, recycling staff are very cautious with any items that look medical. For instance, a nurse may open a syringe package but not use it and believe that since the syringe is made of plastic, it should go into the Mixed Containers blue bin. The problem is that the recycling staff do not know that it was not used or that there is no needle. So in order to keep our recycling we must keep all medical-looking items out of the recycling stream.

If we are to increase what we can include in recycling we must continue to build trust with the recycling vendor. With a reduction in contamination of recycling and ongoing education of recycling vendors, we may have the opportunity to expand recycling in the future.

Tips for proper segregation

- ♻️ Recycling vendors don't accept paper and plastic recyclables in the same bin
- ♻️ Housekeeping is not responsible for separating recyclables that have been combined together
- ♻️ Combining recyclable materials may result in all items going to garbage

Separate your recyclables

- ♻️ Make sure your recyclables are clean and empty
- ♻️ Use transparent liners to allow for visual contamination checks
- ♻️ Use the standardized bin stickers to show what is collected in the bin

Ensure your recyclables get recycled

How to reduce contamination

All bins must have a **sticker** identifying the stream



Only **clean and empty** recyclables should be put in the bin

Create **recycling stations** rather than single bins



Soft plastic packaging is garbage and should not be put in recycling bins

Pair all recycling stations with a **garbage bin**



Avoid placing recycling stations in high-paced areas, such as ED trauma rooms

If in doubt, throw it out!



Only use **clear bag liners** for recycling bins

Recycling bins must **NOT** be placed directly next to biomedical containers



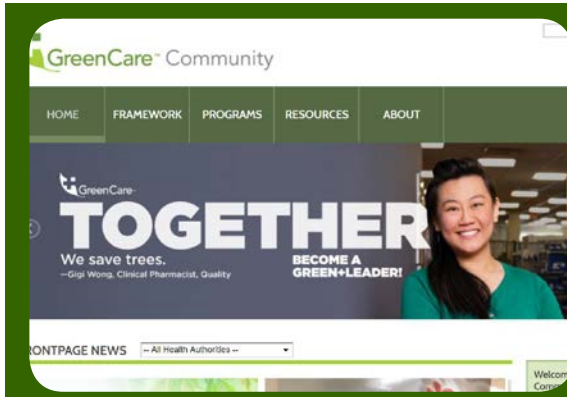
Only use recycling bins for their **intended use**

Where does the recycling go?

Recycling is picked up from a hospital and taken to a recycling facility. From here, materials are sorted and baled, which means compressed and wrapped up with thick wire. The bales are loaded into trucks and shipped off to reprocessing plants for recycling into other materials. Global commercial recycling markets dictate where the materials are sent and these markets are constantly changing.

ITEM	MARKET	AVAILABLE DETAIL	WHAT IT'S USED FOR
PAPER PRODUCTS			
Cardboard	Domestic and Export	Washington, China, India	New corrugated boxes, packaging
Newsprint	Export	China, Korea	New newsprint, insulation, molded pulp, packaging
Office paper	Domestic and Export	New York, China, India	Tissue paper, printing and writing paper
Other mixed paper	Domestic and Export	India	Packaging
PLASTICS			
HDPE	Domestic	Delta, Ontario	Pelletized to create new plastic products
Polypropylene	Domestic	Delta, Ontario	Pelletized to create new plastic products
PET	Domestic	Delta, Ontario	Pelletized to create new plastic products
Other mixed plastics	Domestic	Delta, Burnaby, Ontario	Pelletized to create new plastic products, engineered fuel
Refundable containers	Domestic	Burnaby	Processed via extended producer supply chain
ORGANIC WASTE			
Organics	Domestic	Delta	Compost for landscaping
METAL AND GLASS			
Metals	Domestic		New metal products
Glass	Domestic	Abbotsford	Road base, sand blasting material
E-WASTE			
Electronics and appliances	Domestic		Processed via extended producer supply chain
Batteries	Domestic	BC, Pennsylvania, Japan, France	New batteries, new metal products
Lighting	Domestic and Export	Richmond	Processed via extended producer supply chain

Where can I find more information?



Want to learn more?

[BC GreenCare Website >>](#)

	Item	PHC Epro Item ID	Manufacturer Product ID	Item Description	Cost per Bin (excludes shipping)	Notes
Waste Watcher – Supplier: Busch Systems						
Blue	Bin	00115180	WW30-G2ML	Waste Watcher recycling bin blue	\$33.00	Most popular size
	Lid	00115182	WWLOW-02	Lid recycle full opening blue		
	Lid	00115181	WWLOC-02	Lid recycle slot opening blue	\$25.00	Highly recommended
	Lid	00115183	WWLOC-02	Lid recycle circle opening blue		
Black	Bin	00115178	WW30-G2BL	Waste Watcher garbage bin black	\$33.00	Standardized garbage for re...
	Lid	00115179	WWLOW-23	Lid garbage full opening black	\$25.00	Highly recommended
	Lid	00115185	WWSF-23	Frames sign clip in black	\$21.50	Optional
	Frame	00115184	WWSF-02	Frames sign clip in blue	\$21.50	Optional
Waste Watcher XL – Supplier: Busch Systems						
Blue	Bin	00115190	WWXL30-G2ML	XL recycling bin blue	\$78.00	Use only for Mixed Contai...
	Lid	00115192	WWXLLOW-02	XL lid recycle full opening blue	\$45.00	
Large desk side – Supplier: Veritiv Canada Inc.						

Need more bins and stickers?

[Recycling Equipment Purchasing Catalogue >>](#)



Want to inspire colleagues?

[Print posters to put up >>](#)







Want to get more involved?

[Green+Leaders Network >>](#)

Waste Container Guidelines

	Container	Required Liner	End Disposal
Garbage			Landfill Incineration
Glass Only		 Double-lined	Landfill Incineration
Recycling			Recycling
Batteries		 Bag batteries individually	Recycling
Organics			Composting

Waste Container Guidelines

	Container	Required Liner	End Disposal
Non Anatomical			Autoclave then Landfill
Sharps		None	Autoclave then Landfill
Anatomical		None, unless needed for spill/smell prevention	Incineration
Cytotoxic		None, unless needed for spill/smell prevention	Incineration
Cytotoxic Sharps		None	Incineration

Waste Container Guidelines

	Container	Required Liner	End Disposal
Pharmaceutical		None	Incineration
Cytotoxic Pharmaceutical	 	None	Incineration
Chemical		None	Treatment Incineration
Confidential Paper	 		Shredding then Recycling
Confidential Mixed Media	 		Incineration



Bathroom Tissue



CD Case



Coffee Cup



Diapers/Disposable Briefs



Feminine Hygiene



Gauze Dressing (lightly soiled)



Glass Vial (empty)



Gloves



Gowns (disposable)



Hair Cap



IV Bag (empty)



Kidney Tray



Mask



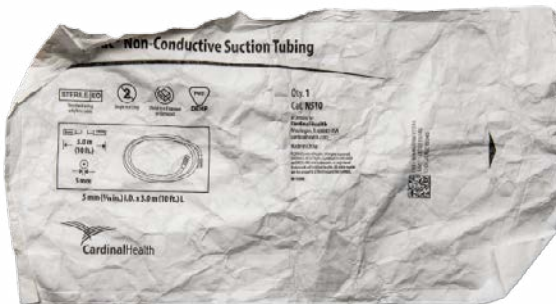
Metal Hanger



Packaging - Foil



Packaging - Soft Plastic



Packaging - Non-rippable Paper



Plastic Graduated Container



Plastic Tubing



Plastic Urinal



Plastic Vial (empty)



Specimen Container (empty)



Styrofoam Cup



Syringe (empty and without needle)



Wrap - Blue



Wrap - White



Wrappers



Wrappers



Aerosol Containers



CaviWipe Container



Coffee Cup Lid



Dairy Container



Fairlee Cup



Formula Container



Glass Bottle



Glass Food Jar



Medication Bottle (clean and empty)



Metal Container



Metal Food Tin



Microsan



Plastic Container



Plastic Container



Plastic Container



Plastic Cup



Plastic Cutlery



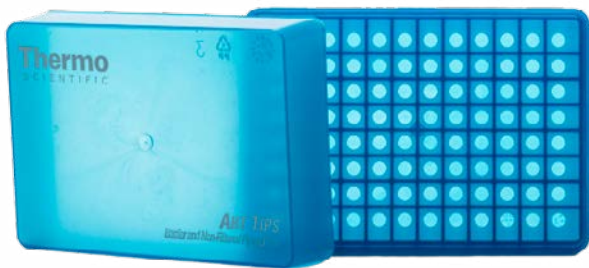
Plastic Feeding Bottle



Plastic Medicine Cup (clean and empty)



Plastic Packaging



Plastic Packaging



Plastic Tray



Plastic Bottle



Pop Can



Snapple



Tetra-Pak



Books



Boxboard



Coffee Cup Sleeve



Magazine



Newspaper



Paper Inserts



Paper Medicine Cup (empty)



Paper Packaging (easily rippable)

Confidential Paper



Coil-bound Documents



DVDs



Office Paper



Plastics with PPI



Paperback Books



VHS