

Sustainable Practices

DID YOU KNOW THAT LABS CONTRIBUTE TO ALMOST 2% OF THE WORLD'S PLASTIC WASTE?



COLD STORAGE

A single ultra-low temperature freezer draws as much energy as an average domestic household!

To minimize energy consumption

- Perform regular defrostings to brush excess ice off. Clean the door seal to improve contact on sealing surfaces.
- Regularly change or clean filters and coils;
- Make a sample inventory and trash items that are no longer needed or viable.
- Join samples and reagents into a single fridge/freezer to reduce the number of machines required.

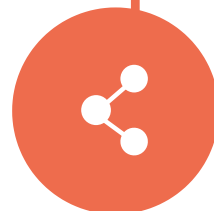


FUME HOODS

Close hood sashes when not in use and avoid using fume cupboards to store chemicals and unnecessary equipment.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Cutting the waste stream is another effective way to green up lab practices. This can be achieved by finding alternatives to disposal such as sharing, redistribution, and recycling. Create an inventory to share unused and unexpired chemicals, equipment, and other materials with other lab groups. Lastly, follow proper waste disposal procedures.



WATER

Flow control also matters when looking to reduce water consumption.

Flow reducing valves, timers, and automatic shut-off mechanisms can all be utilized to conserve water.

LAB EQUIPMENT AND ENERGY

Reduce energy usage of equipment:

- Switch off equipment when not in use.
- Keep equipment regularly maintained.
- Energy, water, waste issues, and costs must be considered when purchasing lab equipment.
- Turn off lights when you leave.



Last but not least: be proactive and help us making labs greener.

Autoclave Waste: A Guide

No liquids.

Non-infectious liquids (e.g. clean TC media/ PBS) can go down the sink, unless they contain hazardous chemicals - in this case ask.

Infectious liquid waste must be treated with distel/virkon and left to soak overnight before disposing of down the sink.

No sharp objects.

Needles, blades or anything else sharp should be disposed of in yellow sharps bins.

No pipette tips or serological pipettes.

Pipette tips go in a metal tin lined with a double autoclave bag (keep the lid closed).

Plastic serological pipettes should be stacked side-by-side in their own double autoclave bag (nothing else should be in with them).

No foil, no blue paper, no glass bottles.

Non-contaminated blue roll goes into the general waste bin. Glass bottles should be rinsed and placed in the dedicated washroom tubs; if damaged, in glass recycling bins.

Only contaminated waste should go in the autoclave bags.



Lab Recycling

DO RECYCLE

Non-contaminated bottles.

Plastic chemicals bottles (e.g. tissue culture media bottles, chemicals bottles etc.) should be rinsed, the label removed, and placed in a recycling bin - unless contaminated with biological or chemical waste.

Paper/plastic packaging.

Such as glove and tip boxes - there is a dedicated recycling scheme for StarLab tip boxes.

Uncontaminated and clean plastics.



DO NOT RECYCLE

Blue roll, tissue paper, hand towels

Paper towels rarely need to be autoclaved - put them in a black general waste bag unless contaminated with biological matter.

Contaminated waste.

Corrugated cardboard packing boxes should be flattened and placed in the cardboard recycling bins in front of the goods lift.

Office Recycling

DO RECYCLE

Rinsed plastic drinks bottles/aluminum drinks cans/yogurt cartons/tetrapack.

Clean hard and soft plastic.

Paper/cardboard.

Crisps packets.

There is a dedicated bin in Level 2 common room.

Old pens.

Look for TerraCycle boxes in your floor.



Please do not contaminate recycling bins by placing general waste in them!

DO NOT RECYCLE

Items with food on them.

Blue roll/paper towels.



Avoid a hard copy of a paper unless you really need it - read it from your computer instead.