



# LAB RECYCLING GUIDELINES

## Items that can be recycled

- Empty plastic bottles numbered 1-7, such as those that contained disinfectant (bleach, quaticare, betadine, etc.), liquid soap (dish or hand soap), alcohol (ethanol, methanol, isopropanol), liquid or powdered media (such as tissue culture or bacterial media), non-toxic dry chemicals, buffers, etc.
- Empty, unbroken, glass bottles such as those that contained alcohol (ethanol, methanol, isopropanol).
- Empty metal cans used for shipping containers of solvents or chemicals.
- Clean (no attached tape!) aluminum foil.
- Plastic and metal food containers such as soup cans, frozen meal containers, soda and water bottles.
- Empty cardboard boxes
- Paper
- Batteries

## Items that can be reused:

- Styrofoam boxes with cardboard box exterior
- Freezer packs
- Pipette tip boxes
- Packing materials—"peanuts", bubble-wrap, bubble-bags, vermiculite, etc.

## Items that cannot be recycled:

- ELISA or microtiter plates.
- Tissue culture plates.
- Plastics that lack a reference number of 1-7.
- Anything that contained noxious chemicals or potentially infectious materials.

## **Specifics of Recycling Lab Materials:**

**Plastic, Metal, & Glass:** Clean uncontaminated lab-related, plastic, metal, and glass containers, and aluminum foil should be discarded only in designated bins labeled “**Mixed Plastics, Metals, & Glass**” within the lab areas. Before discarding, please make sure containers are free of infectious organisms. In addition, remove the labels and thoroughly rinse out those containers which previously contained liquids, chemicals, or media. Do not recycle containers which contained noxious or highly toxic chemicals (a good rule of thumb is that if you can rinse the container with water and safely discard the rinse-water down the sink you can recycle the container). ***Note that contamination of these recyclables within these bins with pipette tip boxes or pipette tip box parts will result in the entire load being diverted to regular garbage—i.e. the materials will not be recycled!!! So, please do not put pipette tip boxes or pipette tip box parts in these bins!!!*** When full, these bins must be emptied into the green recycling bins located on the loading docks of Building 20 and the Peabody Building. Plastic and metal food containers should be rinsed clean and discarded in the green-topped bins within the lunchrooms and coffee areas of Buildings 20 and 21, and the Peabody Building.

**Freezer Packs:** Freezer packs can be placed into designated bin labeled, “**Freezer Packs**” on the second floor of Building 20. When full, the freezer packs should be taken in a separate box to the Clinical Pathology Lab in the Foster Hospital.

**Styrofoam Boxes:** Many vendors, including New England Biolabs, Promega, and Sigma offer re-use and/or recycling of Styrofoam containers. When unpacking items shipped in a Styrofoam container, remove all items (dry ice, freezer packs, “peanuts”, etc.) from the Styrofoam container, look for the postage-paid address label on the Styrofoam container itself or the surrounding cardboard box, seal the container and/or the box, place the label on the container or box as instructed, and leave it for pickup and shipping (usually US Mail). Styrofoam boxes that have a cardboard box exterior but which do not have a postage-paid address label for return to the vendor can be re-used for shipments or can be taken to the Clinical Pathology Lab in the Foster Hospital.

**Cardboard Boxes:** Cardboard boxes should be placed outside lab areas in Buildings 20 and 21, and the Peabody Building for the janitorial staff to pick up. Before discarding, please make sure boxes are empty, remove all plastic tape, and flatten.

**Paper:** Office paper, catalogues, clean packing paper, and junk mail can be placed in the blue paper recycling bins found throughout Buildings 20 and 21, and the Peabody Building.

**Batteries:** Batteries of all sizes (but not car batteries!!!) can be placed in the battery recycling bins found throughout Buildings 20 and 21, and the Peabody Building.

**Pipette Tip Boxes:** Pipette tip boxes and pipette tip box parts CANNOT be recycled. However, tip boxes can be re-filled with tips (either loose or pre-racked) and re-used indefinitely and some vendors that sell pipette tips in boxes do offer tip box recycling.

**Packing Materials:** Packing materials such as bubble wrap, “peanuts”, and bubble bags can be re-used for packing shipments. Excess “peanuts” can be collected in the designated large black plastic garbage bags in Buildings 20 and 21. Once full, these bags can be given to Joel Hanawalt for transfer to a packing company for re-use. Vermiculite can be given to Don Girouard or Jean Mukherjee for packing of Dangerous Goods.

Prepared by Jean Mukherjee, Fall 2004

For more information about our Grafton Recycling Program, visit our website at:

<http://www.tufts.edu/vet/ccm/ggrecycleprogram.htm>