



# HOSPITAL RECYCLING GUIDELINES

## Items that can be recycled

- Empty plastic bottles numbered 1-7, such as those that contained disinfectant (bleach, paraquat, betadine, etc.), liquid soap (dish or hand soap), alcohol (ethanol, methanol, isopropanol), saline or sterile water, etc.
- Empty, unbroken, glass bottles such as those that contained alcohol (ethanol, methanol, isopropanol).
- Empty rinsed metal pet food cans.
- Clean (no attached tape!) aluminum foil.
- Plastic, glass and metal drink/food containers such as soup cans, frozen meal containers, soda and water bottles.
- Empty cardboard boxes - including syringe and needle boxes!
- Paper, including records and forms (without carbon paper)

## Items that can be reused:

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

## Items that cannot be recycled:

- Plastics that lack a reference number of 1-7.
- Anything that contained noxious chemicals or potentially infectious materials.
- Materials contaminated with animal secretions, etc. - biohazards

## **Specifics of Recycling Hospital Materials:**

**Plastic, Metal, & Glass:** Clean uncontaminated hospital-related, plastic, metal, and glass containers, and aluminum foil should be discarded only in green topped bins labeled “**Mixed Plastics, Metals, & Glass**” within the hospital areas. Before discarding, please rinse containers and make sure there has been no contact with infectious organisms or animal waste/secretions. Remove the labels if possible. 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 will result in the entire load being diverted to regular garbage and a fee charged to the School.*** When full, One Source will be responsible for emptying the bins into the appropriate recycling containers behind the hospital.

**Freezer Packs:** Freezer packs can be reused by the Pharmacy/Central supply or the Clinical Pathology Lab.

**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 for reuse.

**Cardboard Boxes:** Cardboard boxes are handled in the regular paper stream and can be flattened and placed next to any paper recycling bin for One Source to handle. Small cardboard boxes, such as syringe and needle boxes can be put directly into the paper bins. Alternatively, boxes (preferably collapsed) can be placed in the large cardboard receptacle in the Large Animal Hallway opposite the food storage area. Before discarding, **please make sure boxes are empty**, and remove all plastic tape.

**Paper:** Office paper (all colors, envelopes), magazines, newspapers, phonebooks, catalogues, clean packing paper, junk mail, unused or old paper forms, etc. can be placed in the blue paper recycling bins found throughout the hospital. Carbon paper is not acceptable.

**Batteries:** Batteries of all sizes (but not car batteries!!!) can be placed in the battery recycling bins found ....

**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.] let’s figure out what to do with these?

### **Greening the Grafton Campus Committee**

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

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