

Recyclable Sharps Bins

April 2022

Why change?

“The global demand for plastics has quadrupled over the past four decades and is projected to further increase in the future, intensifying the impacts on the environment and human health.”

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-021-00807-2>



How the scheme works

Stericycle provide sharps bins that can be reused up to 600 times before they need to be replaced. The full bins are collected by Stericycle, taken to their depot in Leeds, emptied, the contents processed, and the bins rigorously cleaned and inspected before placed back into the scheme for use.

[Stericycle Bio Systems Sharps Management Solution](#)

[Stericycle Sharps Management Service UK](#)

The Stericycle bio system has been independently validated to dispose of sharps, medicinal and pharmaceutical waste (for hospital use).

What are the changes for your group?

Empty sharps bins to be collected from stores, full bins are to be closed securely and taken to stores for processing. You will be charged for the sharps bins when you bring a full bin to stores for processing.

As part of the scheme, we are asking research groups to reduce the number of sharps bins in circulation as well as changing to the new scheme. For example, L/O corridor, there are ten 7.5L, we would aim to reduce this to 5.

Recyclable sharps bins will be available in two sizes 7.5 litre and 30.2 litre, we will not be providing the 1L, 13L, 24L or 60L bins.

Exclusions to the scheme

CATIII Labs. Sharps bins must be autoclaved before disposal, this is not possible with the recyclable bins.

How much does it cost?

Current charges		Recyclable sharps bins	
Size of bin in litres	Current charge for the bin and disposal	Size of bin in litres	Charge for bin rental and disposal of contents
1	£2.48	n/a	n/a
7	£4.97	7.5	£6.00
13	£7.47	n/a	n/a
24	£13.71	n/a	n/a
30	£16.17	30.2	£10.00
60	£33.66	n/a	n/a

Implementation

A date will be arranged for late May for the transfer of all sharps bins. Stericycle will remove all bins that are in use throughout the Department and replace with 7.5 or 30.2 litre bins.

We will not be replacing every bin like for like, due to unnecessary cost and energy usage. If you find that after the implementation it is essential to have a sharps bin at a particular workstation, please collect a bin from stores.

A list of current sharps bins and their replacement can be found at the end of this document

Stericycle will be in the atrium on the day of instalment to answer any questions and to demonstrate the use of the bins, particularly how to securely close them, once they are full.

Who else is using recyclable sharps bins?

The scheme is operating in eight hospital trusts (including University Hospitals Birmingham, East Sussex Hospitals), we will be the first University to adopt the scheme.

Frequently asked questions

Please post any questions about the scheme in the [Frequently Asked Questions Google Document](#), I will be monitoring and answering regularly.

Lucy Hudson
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Current and replacement numbers of sharps bins

	Current sharps bins						Recyclable sharps bins	
	1L	7L	13L	24L	30L	60L	7.5L	30.2L
A Block	1	6	3	1			6	1
D0		5	1	1			5	1
D1		10	4		1	1	5	3
E1		7	2	4			7	4
F0		4		3			4	3
F110			1				1	
F1 Main Lab	3	2	3				2	
F123	1	1					1	
F125 TC Lab			2				1	
F127 TC Lab		1					1	
G001	2	1		1			1	1
H0 CATIII Labs only n/a		4	1					
H1		7	1	1		1	3	2
I	2	2			1	1	2	2
J012 Main lab		4		2			2	1
J003 Main lab				1				1
J003A		1		1			1	1
J004		1		1			1	1
J011 TC lab		3		2			2	2
J1 Main Lab	2	5					3	
J103D		1					1	
J103E				1	1			1
J103K		1					1	
J110A			1				1	
J2 Main Lab		1					1	
K0		4	4	3			6	3
K1	1	1		2			1	2
K2	2	2	5	3			6	3
L0		10	1	4			5	4
L1	1	3	1	2			3	2
L2		8	1	3			5	3
M0	2	9	1				5	
M1		12	5	3		2	6	4
M2	1	9	4	5			6	5
P		1					1	
Q0		5		3			5	3
Q1		8		3		1	5	3
Q2		7		2			5	2
R112 Teaching Lab		5		1		1	5	1
R212 Teaching Lab		2	1				3	
T1		5		1		1	5	1
T2		3			1		3	1

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