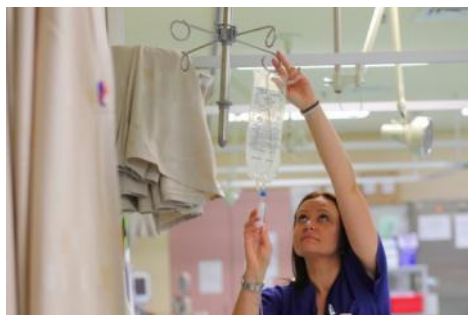




PVC recovery

IN HOSPITALS



Vinyl Council Australia



PVC Recovery in Hospitals is a resource recovery initiative of the Vinyl Council of Australia and part of its PVC Product Stewardship Program.

Major Partner

Baxter

Baxter are the major supplier of IV fluid bags to Australian hospitals and the major sponsor of the PVC Recovery in Hospitals Project.

Program Partners



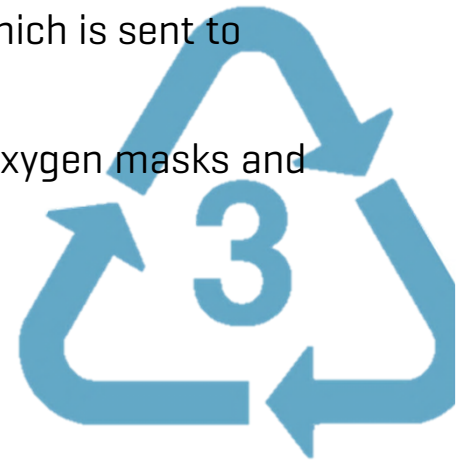
What is 'PVC Recovery in Hospitals'?

An initiative aimed at collecting used PVC medical products for recycling into useful new products.

Plastics account for about one third of a hospital's general waste, most of which is sent to landfill in Australia

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is widely used in healthcare in IV fluid bags, tubing, oxygen masks and blood bags.

- Identified on products or packaging by the Plastics Identification Code '3'.
- Estimated to represent about 25 per cent.



'Australian healthcare consumes over 2,500 tonnes of recyclable PVC a year.'

Forbes McGain, Anaesthetist and recycling advocate, Western Health



PVC is recyclable

PVC recycling programs already exist for bottles, pipes, vinyl flooring and cable.

A pilot program initiated at Western Health Victoria in 2009 showed that PVC medical products can be separated relatively easily by hospital staff.

PVC medical waste recovery diverts waste from landfill to the production of new products such as industrial and garden hose, vinyl flooring and carpet backing.



Recovering PVC



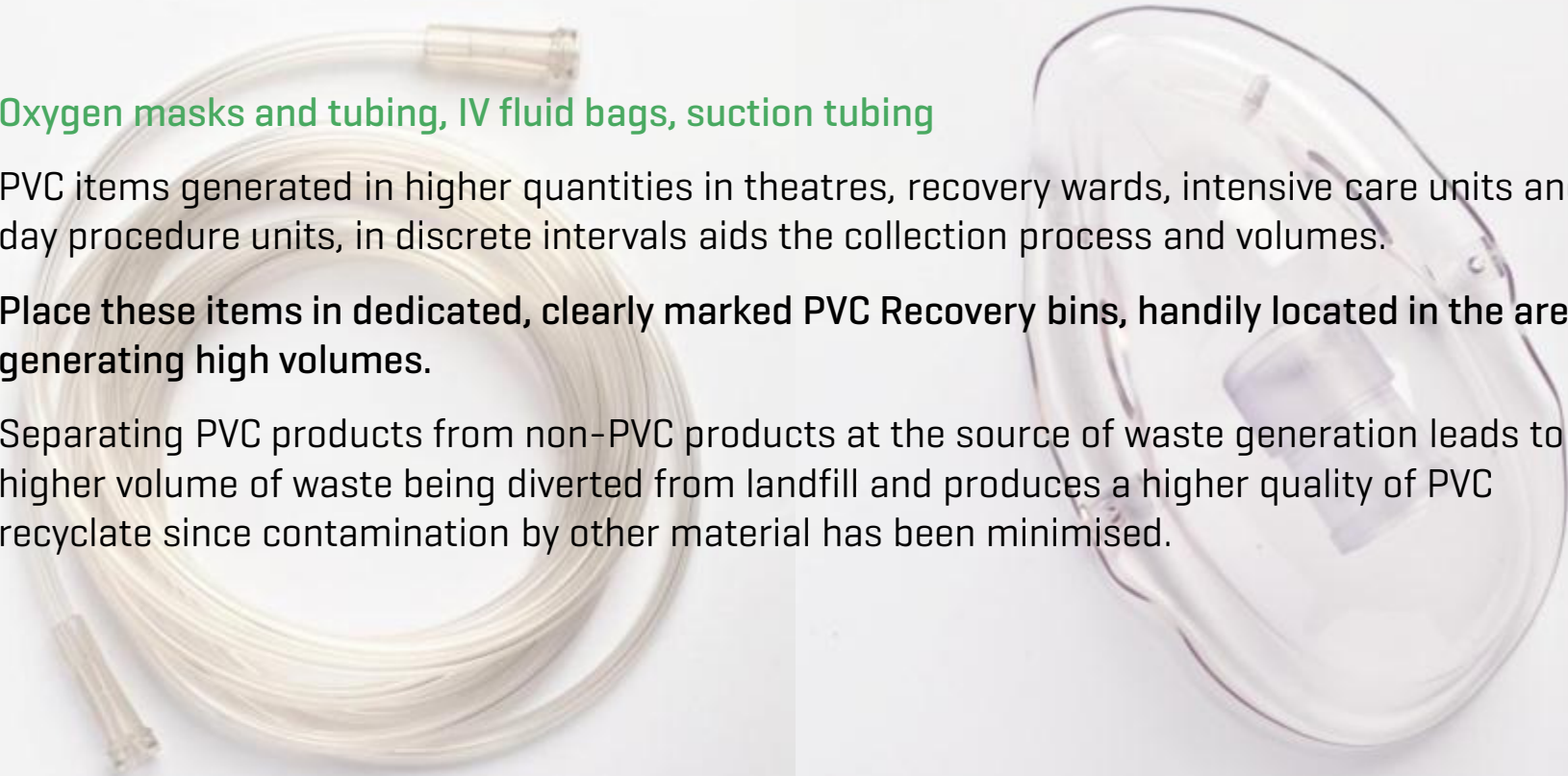
Recovering PVC: which products?

Oxygen masks and tubing, IV fluid bags, suction tubing

PVC items generated in higher quantities in theatres, recovery wards, intensive care units and day procedure units, in discrete intervals aids the collection process and volumes.

Place these items in dedicated, clearly marked PVC Recovery bins, handily located in the areas generating high volumes.

Separating PVC products from non-PVC products at the source of waste generation leads to a higher volume of waste being diverted from landfill and produces a higher quality of PVC recyclate since contamination by other material has been minimised.



IN THE RECYCLING BIN

Oxygen masks
Oxygen tubing
IV fluid bags
Suction tubing



LEAVE OUT

Contaminated material
Regulated wastes
Products with multiple plastic parts
Gloves

Non-PVC IV fluid bags
Metal clips
Elastic straps
Hard plastic Inserts

Improving the result

Reduce the risk of contamination of the PVC material by non-PVC materials:

- Remove elastic straps and metal clips from oxygen masks
- Drain IV solutions from bags before disposal and remove hard plastic inserts
- Even where the main part of a product is PVC, if there are numerous components made of hard plastics and other materials, such as in giving sets, do not include it in the PVC Recovery bins



PVC Recovery - Clinical Areas

Group Discussion & Planning

- Who will be the project champion[s]?
- Which departments of the hospital will be included?
- Which PVC products will be recovered?
- What volume of these products is usually consumed in these areas?
- Is space available for PVC Recovery bins to be readily at hand, and where are these areas?

Once you have concluded your group discussion, capture the information, share it with your waste management team and discuss how to commence an initial trial.



'We recycle so much at home – let's do it in the hospital. It's so easy with the bins provided.'

Jessica Andrews, ANUM, Recovery, Western Hospital



PVC Recovery - Clinical Areas

Challenges in implementing recycling programs:

- Behaviour
- Storage space for waste and bins, and
- The logistics of moving waste.

To overcome these:

- Use good planning
- Ongoing education
- Liaison with the waste management team

‘Ongoing staff education ensures a reliable uncontaminated supply of PVC for recycling’

Catherine O’Shea Sustainability Officer, Western Health



PVC Recovery – Clinical Areas

Issues to be aware of

Infection Control

Clearly no material which is potentially infected should be placed in recycling bins. If there is any doubt about a waste PVC product, it should not be placed in the recycling bin.

Resistance to change

Staff not interested in recycling should be encouraged to place their 'waste' into the general bins rather than contaminate the recycling bins and the effort of other staff.

Contamination by other materials

It only takes a few non-PVC items in the recycling bin to result in the whole bin of material being non-recyclable. Continually engaging staff in implementing good recycling practices will minimise this risk.

If in doubt, leave it out!

If there is any doubt about contamination, the product type or the plastic type, do not place it in the PVC Recovery bin.

PVC Recovery – Hospital Waste Management Team

Group Discussion & Planning

- What volume of PVC product waste is expected to be recovered?
- How many bins will be required [allowing for full/empty rotations]? Who will supply them? Choose a specific bin colour so that the PVC Recovery bins are clearly identifiable and instantly recognisable.
- Is space available for PVC Recovery bins to be readily at hand?
- Is space available to store collected PVC until transported off-site? Is compaction and/or bulk storage available? Does it need to be considered?
- Which waste contractor/recycler will be engaged? Have they confirmed the waste will be sent to a local recycler?
- Will the contractor take only the waste or the full bins?
- Have PVC Recovery bin identification stickers been ordered?
- Has the waste/recycler contractor been asked to measure and provide data on collections?

Share this information with the PVC Recovery team and discuss how to commence an initial trial.

PVC Recovery – Hospital Waste Management Team

Challenges in implementation:

- Behaviour
- Storage space for waste and bins and
- The logistics of moving waste.

Issues to be aware of

Insufficient bins available...

...limits the amount of PVC recovered and diverted from landfill. Provide sufficient bins and appropriate frequency of bin rotations through the collection areas to avoid a “stop-start” program which would discourage staff in their efforts.

Storage of waste

Full bins may need to be stored for 2-4 weeks before collection, or bins emptied into bulk bags or storage. Discuss the collection and transportation options with waste/recycling contractors.



‘50 million IV bags go from hospitals into landfill every year. We can recycle the lot...here in Australia.’

Colin Marks, Director, SRM Plastics



PVC Recovery – Act now!

Register your interest

www.vinyl.org.au/PVCRecovery

For any inquiries or assistance, please email: Vinyl Council of Australia
info@vinyl.org.au, or

Baxter Healthcare ANZ_SHS_Sustainability@baxter.com

Once your program has commenced, register it at

www.vinyl.org.au/PVCRecovery

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO JOIN
THE PVC RECOVERY PROGRAM





Vinyl Council Australia

Phone 03 9368 6171
Email info@vinyl.org.au
www.vinyl.org.au/PVCRecovery

Major partner



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Program Partners



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