



Eight ways to reduce plastics in laboratories

Can your packaging be sent back?

Several suppliers offer this so it can be reused. Engage your suppliers on what options they can offer.



Create reagents/kits in-house:

Many common reagents and materials may be produced on site e.g. pour your own gels for DNA electrophoresis



Could your leftover plastic containers be used for something else in the lab?



Could you buy bulk?

Combine and share with other labs. Only do so when certain to utilise all contents.



Purchase 'flexible' kits:

Many labs use kits for standard processes – purchase kits which allow you to buy the contents separately – avoiding waste bottles/reagents.



Can you downsize your plastics?

Sometimes there are alternatives which perform the same task with less plastic. E.g. smaller tube sizes.



Can you recycle your packaging?

Most packaging doesn't require incineration. Consider if there are ways to avoid excess clinical waste, e.g. targeting a few items which aren't contaminated to no longer go through clinical waste.



Tip boxes: Can you reload tip boxes?

Non-contaminated tip boxes can be recycled or some suppliers offer take-back schemes.

