



# PVC RECYCLING IN HOSPITALS

## WELL-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE

PVC recycling in hospitals has existed since 2009. Today, around 200 hospitals in Australia, New Zealand and the UK collect post-use PVC oxygen masks & tubing, nasal cannulae and IV bags for recycling.

## UNTAPPED RESOURCE

It has been calculated that a 300-bed hospital could recycle 2.5 tonnes/year of PVC oxygen masks & tubing, IV bags and nasal cannulae.

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

For each kg of PVC recycled, 2 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> are saved. Energy savings of up to 90% are achieved when using recycled PVC instead of virgin PVC.



## HIGH QUALITY RECYCLATE

High grade PVC is used for medical devices. The recyclate can be turned into a wide variety of useful products.

## COST SAVINGS

Hospitals can save money on waste management by diverting used medical devices away from expensive waste treatment.

## NON-DEHP DEVICES KEY TO SUCCESS

In the EU, authorisation is needed to recycle DEHP-containing PVC. DEHP-free devices can be recycled without restrictions, which is preferable.

## LOW RISK OF CONTAMINATION

In existing PVC recycling schemes in hospitals, only devices used on non-infectious patients are collected for recycling. The practice thus poses no greater risk than recycling of used soda or drinking water bottles.