

# Core brief

## Daily update

(4 September 2023, 10.30am)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Sustainability – waste management update

## Sustainability – waste management update

As you will have seen in the [Board Meeting Core Brief](#), a new five-year Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy has been approved.

In this Core Brief we will highlight some of the issues with regards to waste management.

### Waste holds and bins

We want to highlight a critical aspect of maintaining a safe work environment that concerns us all - the proper locking of waste holds and bins.

**Locking Waste Holds:** It's of utmost importance that all waste holds and bins, both indoors and outdoors, are securely locked when not in use. This measure not only prevents unauthorised access but also helps in containing potential hazards and keeping our workspace clean and organised. Please be vigilant in ensuring that waste containers are locked after use and avoid leaving them open or unattended.

**Fire Risk Awareness:** In our efforts to maintain a fire-safe workplace, it's essential to recognise the fire risks associated with waste materials. Combustible materials, when improperly discarded or left exposed, can contribute to the rapid spread of fire. To minimise this risk:

- **Avoid Overloading:** Refrain from overfilling waste containers, as this can lead to materials overflowing and becoming potential fire hazards.
- **Proper Disposal:** Ensure that waste is properly segregated and disposed of in the correct bins.
- **Report:** If you find a bin with a broken lock or a faulty waste hold door, promptly report it your local facilities dept.
- **Waste holds:** Never write the code for the lock on the waste hold lock and you must never wedge waste hold doors open.



If you are uncertain about which waste bag to use or have any questions regarding waste disposal procedures, please reach out to your local facilities or the waste management team: [ggc.wasteteam@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:ggc.wasteteam@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) for guidance.

### **Improper linen disposal**

There has been repeated instances of linen being disposed of in domestic and clinical waste bins instead of being returned to the laundry. This practice not only undermines our operational efficiency but also poses potential risks to our waste treatment systems and resource management.

Why returning linen to laundry matters:

- **Resource management:** Our linens are valuable assets. Disposing of them in bins results in the board paying for the disposal of and then subsequent purchase of replacement linen.
- **Operational efficiency:** Our laundry services are designed to clean, disinfect and process linen effectively. Improper disposal disrupts our workflow and can lead to shortages, potentially delaying the supply of clean linen to sites.
- **Environmental responsibility:** Premature disposal of linen contributes to environmental waste and unnecessary carbon emissions. Responsible linen management aligns with our commitment to sustainability and net-zero.
- **Waste treatment:** Our waste contractor's treatment systems are not equipped to deal with linen's, disposing of linen in waste bins has the potential to damage waste treatment systems and disrupt our operations.

Correct procedure:

- All used linen in the care setting not contaminated by blood or body fluids must be placed into a white hamper bag.
- Infectious linen contaminated with blood or body fluids must be placed into red water soluble bags, a secondary clear bag and then into a red hamper bag.

Don't bin it, bag it!

### **Clinical Waste Disposal - Incorrect Segregation of Waste**

NHSGGC is committed to adhering to good waste management practice, we would like to emphasise the importance of adhering to proper waste segregation within our facilities. Specifically, we would like to address the use of clinical waste bags outside of designated clinical areas.

Clinical waste bags are designed and designated for the safe disposal of hazardous materials generated within clinical settings. Their purpose is to ensure the containment and appropriate disposal of infectious waste that may pose a risk if not handled properly. It is crucial that we all understand and respect the appropriate usage of these bags. They are to only be used in areas where clinical waste is generated; they must **not** be used in public areas, offices or toilets.

Using clinical waste bags outside of clinical areas results in unnecessary financial costs and carbon emissions which negatively impact our organisation and the environment.

If you are uncertain about which waste bag to use or have any questions regarding waste disposal procedures, please reach out to your local facilities or the waste management team: [ggc.wasteteam@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:ggc.wasteteam@ggc.scot.nhs.uk) for guidance.

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Managers and Leaders	Confidential Contacts	HR Support and Advice Unit	Report via Datix
If you have an issue, your line manager is there to support you. Please speak to your immediate line manager or another member of the management team, who will be able to support you.	Our team of confidential contacts will listen to your concerns and help you to determine the best course of action to resolve the issue and escalate your concerns.	The unit is there to support all staff. Call <b>0141 278 2700</b> Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm. You can also raise a query through the self-service portal at <a href="https://nhsnss.service-now.com/ggc_hr">https://nhsnss.service-now.com/ggc_hr</a>	It is vital that we all play a role to report all incidents and near misses no matter how small we think they might be. Visit: <a href="http://datix.xggc.scot.nhs.uk/datix/live/index.php">http://datix.xggc.scot.nhs.uk/datix/live/index.php</a>

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