

Recycling # 1

The IPAC Reality

- While all waste should be handled using “routine precautions”, only a small amount of waste requires special disposal.
 - Guideline C-4 in Ontario details disposal requirements
 - listed “infectious” wastes
 - blood and blood products
 - anatomical waste
 - cytotoxic waste





Recycling # 2

Green Goal

- Recycle cans & bottles.



The Myth

- Cans & bottles recycling bins attract bugs.



Recycling # 2

The IPAC Reality

- Sorting waste into different containers will not attract more bugs.
 - garbage can attract bugs, regardless of how or where it's collected...it doesn't matter if those cans & bottles are recycled or thrown out
 - good housekeeping keeps bugs away; regular pick-up of waste is key
 - line “cans & bottles” bins with clear bags that will allow waste to be identified, but prevent spillage of liquids



Recycling # 3

Green Goal

- Recycle throughout the hospital.



The Myth

- Recycling cannot be done in sensitive areas such as the OR or ICUs.



Recycling # 3

The IPAC Reality

- Sorting waste into different containers does not increase infection risks.



Waste Reduction #1

Green Goal

- Reduce the weight of waste produced by the hospital.

The Myth

- Sinks are a great place to dispose of liquid wastes.



Waste Reduction # 1

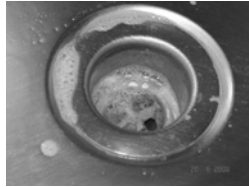
The IPAC Reality

- Partially-used sterile saline, dextrose or other IV solutions **NOT** containing medications can be drained in sinks.
- **NO** narcotics, antibiotics, or cytotoxic solutions should be drained into sinks.



Waste Reduction # 1

- Bacterial biofilms form in drains and pipes.
- Antibiotic and disinfectant disposal may promote development of resistance.
- Antibiotics persist in natural water bodies:
 - sulfonamides>
 - fluoroquinolones>
 - macrolides



Waste Reduction # 1

- **Other solutions that should not be disposed of in sinks:**
 - Hormones
 - Live vaccines
 - Disinfectants
 - Quaternary ammonium products
 - Chlorine-releasing agents
 - MRI contrast media (gadolinium)
 - Analgesics/sedatives



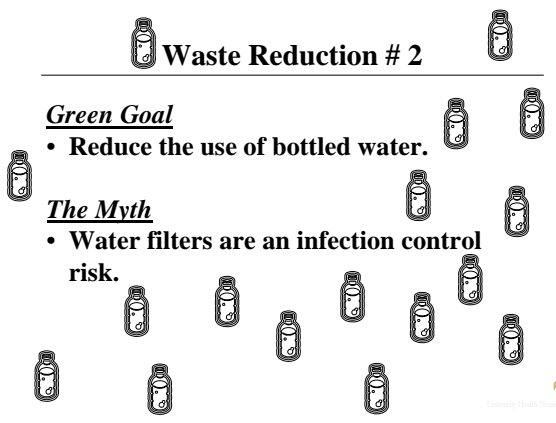

Waste Reduction # 2

Green Goal

- Reduce the use of bottled water.

The Myth



- Water filters are an infection control risk.

Waste Reduction # 2

The IPAC Reality

- Water filters are most important for high-risk units.
 - ICUs, solid and bone marrow transplant units, other immunocompromised patient areas
- Point of use water filters can filter water to a pore size of 0.2 μ M.
 - Effective for *Legionella*, *Pseudomonas*, *Aspergillus* species
- Water filters may reduce the flow of water by acting as a resistance.
 - Require regular maintenance**



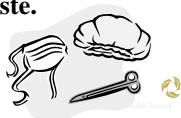

Waste Reduction # 3

Green Goal

- Minimize the amount of waste being disposed of as biomedical waste.

The Myth

- All isolation room waste needs to be disposed of as biomedical waste.

Waste Reduction # 3

The IPAC Reality

- While all isolation room waste needs to be contained to prevent spread of infection, most does not require special disposal.

- appropriate handling of waste required within hospital
- MRSA, VRE, *C. difficile* isolation room waste can be disposed of as general waste (if not grossly soiled)
- exceptions are listed (e.g., Guideline C-4 in Ontario) – CJD, Ebola, etc.



Chemical Waste

Green Goal

- Use “greener” chemicals.

The Myth

- Everything in the hospital needs to be disinfected.



Chemical Waste

The IPAC Reality

- Only some hospital areas need to be disinfected some or most of the time.
 - good housekeeping and best practice can ensure disinfection is effective without unnecessary use of harsh chemicals
 - many cleaning products – whether conventional or “green” – have little or no impact on infection control” (www.practicegreenhealth.org)
 - Quaternary ammonium compounds are effective against aquatic microorganisms and may interfere with wastewater purification



Chemical Waste

Resources

- “Practice Greenhealth’s Ten Step Guide to Green Cleaning Implementation”
- www.h2e-online.org/docs/h2e10stepgreenclean-r5.pdf



Greener Buildings

Green Goal

- Use “green” building materials.

The Myth

- Natural flooring materials (e.g., linoleum) create a mould risk.



Greener Buildings

The IPAC Reality

- Choose the right material for the right location.
 - proper installation of any floor is key
 - proper cleaning and maintenance of all floors is a must
 - for patient care areas, avoid seams that can trap dirt and allow water to seep through



Greener Buildings

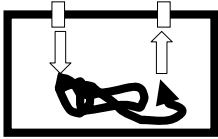
Other Design Tips

- **Use easy to clean materials.**
 - for patient care areas, avoid seams that can trap dirt and allow water to seep through
 - avoid cloth or leather upholstery
- **Design easy to clean spaces.**
 - avoid awkward corners that won't easily fit a mop, etc.
 - avoid "dust shelves" (e.g., sconce lighting, etc.)
 - use a cove base floor for patient care areas
 - position as much off the floor as possible (e.g., toilets, etc.)

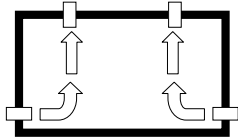


Up And Coming

- **displacement ventilation**



"old fashioned"
overhead ventilation



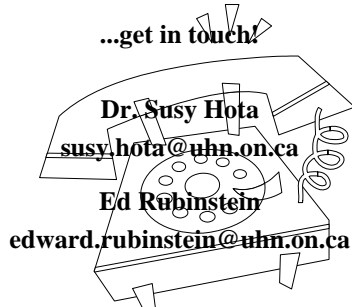
displacement
ventilation

- may allow for less air exchanges without sacrificing infection control
- early results are promising - Healthcare Ventilation Research Collaborative is currently conducting further research



Don't Be A Stranger...

...get in touch!



THANK YOU!