POLYCARBIN

Best Practices

Basics

All mailback programs are for non-infectious, non-hazardous rigid plastics. If there is any doubt about whether the contents of a plastic item is considered hazardous or infectious, please do not dispose of it in a Polycarbin Carbin.

For plastics that have come in contact with non-infectious yeast or E. coli, please spray the plastics with 70% EtOH or 1% bleach.

For plastics with buffer residues, rinse with water.

Most importantly, be sure to thoroughly empty containers before disposing of them in your Carbin. Small amounts of liquid residue can add up quickly in a Carbin.

What Should I Consider Hazardous?

Polycarbin is not prescriptive about what is, or is not, considered infectious or hazardous within the customer's workflow. We defer to the customer's onsite environmental, health and safety (EH&S) specialist, or a similarly qualified professional, to assess which plastics can and cannot be recycled through Polycarbin. While states may vary on specific designations for various chemicals, a comprehensive list of chemicals recognized federally as hazardous can be found on Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) home page, here.

Other Types of Non-Conforming Materials

Soft Packaging - while we would like to address soft packaging waste, our system is specifically designed for the rigid plastics that come from your lab. Please avoid disposing of shrink wrap, packaging films, and especially multi-layered films in our Carbins.

Municipal Plastics - Polycarbin developed a proprietary sorting system that is specific to the polymer types present in rigid laboratory plastics. This system is incompatible with municipal plastic waste. If items such as food packaging are disposed of in our Polycarbins, they will not be recycled into laboratory products, and in rare instances, can contaminate entire batches of plastic destined for circulation. Please use your municipal recycler for your non-rigid plastic waste.

Fibrous Waste - Polycarbin cannot recycle cardboard, Kimwipe, or paper waste. Fibrous waste streams such as these lead to processing contamination and are ultimately landfilled if found in our Carbins.

Rubber/Latex/Nitrile/Silicone - Polycarbin cannot recycle rubber, nitrile gloves, or silicone such as that fat in tubing. In fact, these materials are particularly hard to sort out from rigid plastics and furthermore, if co-extruded with our circular economy resin, render the entire batch of material unusable in any application. Please do not throw any of these materials in our Carbin or they will neutralize the rest of your recycling efforts.

Metal - Polycarbin cannot recycle any metal. In fact, metal products destroy delicate equipment Polycarbin's sorting platform needs to adequately sort rigid plastics. Furthermore, materials like aluminum and steel are too valuable to waste by throwing into a Carbin. Please do not put any metals into your Carbins.

With most of our customers, a 70% ethanol spray or 1-10% bleach spray sufficiently reduce concerns in BSL1 labs regarding contaminated pipette tip boxes. However, we do not recommend using our Beta Carbins in tissue culture suites (TCS) of BSL2 labs, TCS dedicated to viral transductions, or TCS with a risk of exposure to blood born pathogens. Furthermore, we ask our customers to avoid leaving our Beta Carbins in shared spaces where non-participating groups may inappropriately dispose of materials.