

# Why Choose Reusable Isolation Gowns?

*It's the Responsible Choice, Because the Future Is NOT Disposable!*

Reusable isolation gowns can reduce medical waste as much as 80% and reduce costs as much as 25% to 50%.\*

It's of the utmost importance to seek solutions in healthcare that are mindful of our environment and regard sustainability as a key element. Sustainability is defined as taking actions that meet the needs of the present, without jeopardizing the needs of future generations.

Increasing your facilities' use of reusable medical textiles is one way to Green up your operations, reduce medical waste and improve your bottom line. Consider the following points before you place your next order for disposable products.

## HIGH-TECH REUSABLE SURGICAL TEXTILES

The surgical textiles manufactured in the 21st Century bear little resemblance to medical textiles 50 years ago. Today's isolation gowns provide: Increased comfort, flexibility, improved performance, strength, durability and low rates of particle release (linting).

## MAKING THE CASE FOR REUSABLE ISOLATION GOWNS

Reusable isolation or barrier gowns are engineered using microfiber technology that produces 100% polyester, tightly woven and fluid-repellent fabric made of continuous filament threads. Isolation gowns:

- Protect healthcare workers from blood and bodily fluids,
- Provide comfort and allow for

sterilization, and

- Several levels of protection are available.

## REUSABLES REDUCE MEDICAL WASTE

Hospitals are increasingly switching from disposable to reusable isolation gowns. In making the switch, they are able to reduce both their volume of waste and high costs associated with disposal. Consider:

- Single-use, disposable isolation gowns generate 5 times more solid waste than a reusable product.\*
- According to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, hospital patients in the U.S. generate about 15 pounds of waste each day. Nationwide, hospitals generate approximately 6,700 tons of waste daily — at least 15% of which is considered infectious.<sup>1</sup>
- 78% of hospitals designate surgical waste as infectious;<sup>1</sup> 53% of surgical waste is comprised of disposable linen.<sup>2</sup>

## REUSABLES INCREASE PROFITABILITY

As healthcare costs soar, hospitals have made reducing costs a critical priority. One way to reduce costs and, therefore, increase profitability is to switch to reusable isolation gowns. Consider the decision made by hospitals in Indianapolis:

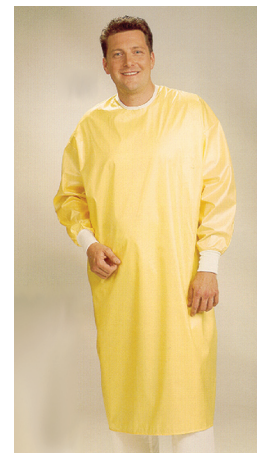
- United Hospital Services (UHS) in Indianapolis persuaded the 30-plus

hospitals it serves to keep reusable isolation gowns instead of switching to disposables.

The result? A savings to the hospitals of at least \$1.4 million a year.<sup>3</sup>

How was this possible? The independent laundry cooperative processes nearly 20,000 isolation gowns a day, six days a week, 52 weeks a year. That equates to nearly six million isolation gowns a year.

Because disposable, single-use isolation gowns are 25% to 50%\* more than the cost to lease a reusable gown, hospitals can realize significant savings through a reusables program. This does not take into account the annual disposal costs and environmental impact of 6 million disposable isolation gowns.



1) Rutala WA, Weber DJ. Infectious waste: Mismatch between science and policy. *NEJM* 1991;578-82. 2) Tieszen ME, Gruenberg JC. A quantitative, qualitative and critical assessment of surgical waste. *JAMA* 1992;267:2765-8. 3) United Hospital Services in Indianapolis, IN, 2008, GM Ed McCauley.