

PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab's Genesys™ Surgical Drapes Feature Technology to Enhance Their Breakdown in Landfills

New line helps hospitals reduce environmental impact

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Ecolab introduces Genesys™, a new line of plastic drapes and waste bags featuring technology that speeds breakdown of the material into primary organic matter when disposed of in biologically active landfills. The products do not need to be separated from other waste material.

"Hospitals are making meaningful commitments to protect the health of their communities by becoming better stewards of the environment," said Andrew Gaillard, vice president of Marketing, Ecolab Global Healthcare. "The Genesys line of surgical drapes and waste bags are designed to help hospitals protect patients and staff from infections acquired in the operating room, and achieve environmental goals without changing current clinical practices."

It is an accepted fact that petrochemical-derived plastics, such as polyethylene, which are used in most surgical equipment drapes and waste bags today, do not biodegrade. Genesys products use a proprietary organic additive that enhances the plastic's ability to absorb moisture, attract microbes and facilitate conversion into primary organic matter and gas. The plastics break down up to 35 percent in just 21 months when tested according to the [American Society for Testing and Materials \(ASTM\) D5511](#) test.

A recent [report by the Commonwealth Fund](#), a private foundation working toward a high performing health care system, found that health facilities create 6,600 tons of waste each day, much of which is transported to landfills. Operating rooms account for about 33 percent of all hospital supply, energy and waste costs.

The results of an Ecolab blind survey of nearly 200 hospital purchasing officers, clinicians and sustainability decision makers found that 50 percent of the respondents reported concern about the current amount of waste produced in the operating room. In addition, 70 percent said that sustainability concerns are influencing changes in hospital policies and processes. Seventy-nine percent view the use of products that break down faster in landfills as sound policy that aligns with their facilities' values.

Ecolab offers a complete line of equipment drapes and waste bags that help hospitals maintain a sterile field within the operating room. For more information on the Genesys line, visit www.ecolab.com/genesys or call (800) 824-3027.

About Ecolab

A trusted partner at more than one million customer locations, Ecolab (ECL) is the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services that protect people and vital resources. With 2012 sales of \$12 billion and 44,000 associates, Ecolab delivers comprehensive solutions and on-site service to promote safe food, maintain clean environments, optimize water and energy use and improve operational efficiencies for customers in the food, healthcare, energy, hospitality and industrial markets in more than 170 countries around the world.

For more news and information, visit www.ecolab.com.

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California law prohibits the sale of plastic packaging and plastic products that are labeled with the terms "biodegradable" or any form of those terms, or that imply in any way that the item will break down, biodegrade or decompose in a landfill or other environment. These restrictions apply to all sales in or into the state of California, including such sales over the internet.

(ECL-P)

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