

Position on plastic

Ostomy Care / Continence Care / Wound & Skin Care / Interventional Urology



Plastic is useful and is used every day for many things. But what happens after plastic is thrown away is causing a problem for our planet.

As a manufacturer of medical products made of plastic, Coloplast has a responsibility to contribute to solving the problems with plastic waste and wants to contribute to the UN SDG 12 on responsible production and consumption. However, within healthcare there are distinct clinical limitations to reducing plastic waste.

We embrace that challenge and have clear priorities:

- **Product safety and clinical performance cannot be compromised**

Coloplast operates in a heavily regulated industry in terms of quality and safety. Within that space, Coloplast develops products and services that make life easier for people with very personal and private medical conditions. It is essential that our products are safe and reliable for our users who depend on them to live the life they want.

- **Single use products are the safest and easiest option for our users**

Our users live with very personal and private medical conditions. Single use products are the easiest way for users to manage their medical conditions while maintaining a normal life. Since our products are contaminated with urine, faeces and wound exudate after use, single use is also the safest way to reduce risks of infection for both users and healthcare professionals.

- **Increased focus on eco-design and recyclability - packaging is our first step**

Coloplast applies eco-design principles when developing new products, but we can do better in designing our products and packaging with a reduced environmental impact and to be recyclable. While there are strict limitations to our products, there are more possibilities when it comes to packaging, where we can reduce the environmental impact by eliminating unnecessary packaging and use materials with less impact. We can also design packaging to be recyclable, but this will only have a real impact if users sort their waste and if waste management infrastructure has the installed capacity.

- **Identifying new materials and supporting the development of new technologies**

Plastic is the best material for our products due to product performance as well as hygiene and quality standards. Currently, the plastic we use is primarily fossil based virgin materials due to safety and quality. To transition, we need to identify new materials and support the development of new sustainable technologies. We will focus on bio-based plastics, which can have the same qualities as conventional plastics, and we will integrate recycled plastics as the technology matures. At this moment, Coloplast does not consider biodegradable plastics compatible with making high quality products, since they do not allow critical products features such as extended wear-time for ostomy bags or ready-to-use catheters.

- **Seek partnerships across the industry**

This is an industry wide challenge that we cannot solve by ourselves. We will be partnering up with suppliers and other industry actors to find solutions both when it comes to products and the needed infrastructure to handle plastic waste and recycling.

Coloplast is committed to reduce the impacts of our products and packaging as much as possible within limits of making clinically superior and safe products and annually report on progress in our Sustainability Report.