

AIC Sustainability Committee

Material Matters Tips



AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR
CONSERVATION
OF HISTORIC AND
ARTISTIC WORKS

- **Nitrile gloves can be recycled!** Learn more about starting a glove recycling program at your institution:

<https://www2.kcprofessional.com/rightcycle>

https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/zero_waste_boxes/disposable-gloves

- **Recyclable materials can vary regionally.** Print out a list to make sure everyone knows what can be recycled. Search for recycling solutions by material and region:

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle>, <https://earth911.com/>

To reduce paper waste we encourage you to take a photo of this flier for your reference!

- **Reduce-Reuse-Recycle in that order!** Can you find reusable substitutes like glass pipettes instead of disposable plastic or use hand towels (tea towels) instead of paper towels?

- **Size doesn't matter!** Even small scraps of paper and foam can be recycled or repurposed.

- Buy recycled materials where possible, such as HRC Ethafoam and paper towels.

- TerraCycle offers great programs for hard-to-recycle items including art supplies, coffee capsules and 3D printing materials. What do you have that can be recycled? <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>

- **How you store materials can affect their lifespan!** Reduce damage and waste by storing cardboards, foams, or Coroplast sheets flat to prevent warping. Cover materials to reduce light damage and dust accumulation.

- Consider how much waste you produce-- could you donate scrap materials to art programs at local schools? Stop before throwing away old brushes or other tools, they could have another life!

- Small scraps of BEVA 371 film can be melted, re-cast, or diluted as needed.

Note: The AIC Sustainability Committee does not endorse or promote the companies mentioned

Visit our Wiki page for more ideas:

conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Sustainable_Practices

Have tips for conservators to make their practice more sustainable?

Questions about sustainability?

Email us at sustainability@conservation-us.org