




Recycle in your
pharmacy with
Zero Waste Box™



TERRACYCLE
ZERO WASTE BOX

Consumers are increasingly demanding businesses implement sustainable solutions to tackle the growing waste crisis. This report unpacks how the pharmaceutical industry can support these sustainable ambitions, with insights from TerraCycle’s experts and businesses like yours that have adopted the Zero Waste Box system to achieve recycling goals and drive footfall in store.

This document is interactive 

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“ They love it – customers come from all over to use the recycling boxes. ”
Tracey, Balhannah Terrywhite Chemmart

The issue: Pharmaceutical waste in Australia

Australia has the second-highest per-person waste generation rate in the world, just behind the United States¹. While we also boast the second-highest recycling rate (after the United Kingdom), pharmaceutical waste has been largely overlooked, potentially due to its complex material nature and perception as a necessity².

With the global blister packet market alone projected to be worth \$24 billion by 2024³ and the Asia Pacific becoming its fastest growing sector⁴, the need for a recycling solution is **more important than ever**.

Unlike items accepted in kerbside recycling, it is difficult for recycling processors to separate and extract the flexible plastics and metals blister packs are made from. This means the cost of recycling them is higher than the value of the end material. So, they usually end up incinerated, in landfills, or as litter in our environment and waterways. It's the same story for disposable face masks, which are made from layers of synthetic polymers, and disposable gloves, variously made from latex, nitrile and vinyl – all materials that are difficult to process in traditional facilities.

¹ Australia State of the Environment 2021, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

² Pharmaceutical Compound Content of Municipal Solid Waste, Journal of Hazardous Material.

³ Blistering Waste, SCL.

⁴ Pharmaceutical Blister Packaging Market – Growth, Trends, COVID-19 Impact, and Forecasts (2022-2027), Mordor Intelligence.





What's the solution? Zero Waste Box

Zero Waste Boxes are all about ease of use. Simply order your box online and set it up in an easily accessible spot in your pharmacy. Then, invite staff and customers to fill it with the relevant waste, be it blister packs, disposable face masks or gloves. Once the box is full, ship it back to us to be recycled via Australia Post – the box has a prepaid shipping label for seamless post office drop offs.

The rubbish you've collected will be processed into raw materials that can be used to make new products such as outdoor furniture, planters, construction materials and playgrounds.

Here's what pharmacies can recycle using popular Zero Waste Boxes

ACCEPTED WASTE

NOT ACCEPTED WASTE



- Any brand of empty blister packs

- Blister packs still containing pills or other medication
- Any loose medicine or medical waste



- Non-woven disposable plastic-based face masks including 3-ply surgical, dust masks, KN95 and N95 masks

- Paper or cloth masks
- Protective gear like gloves, hair nets, or lab coats



- Disposable vinyl, nitrile and latex gloves

- Reusable cloth gloves
- Protective gear like masks, hair nets, or lab coats

So far in 2022, almost one million blister packs, face masks and gloves have been sent to TerraCycle for recycling, keeping these hard-to-recycle items out of landfills and our environment.

What pharmacists have to say

“ We do a huge amount to reduce our environmental impact here. We’re reducing single-use items as much as possible and recycling everything we can. We’ve reduced landfill waste from 240L per-day three years ago to less than 120L per-fortnight now.

Accepting blister packs for recycling has brought customers to the pharmacy from all over South Australia.

Morag Horton, Pharmacist at TerryWhite Chemmart Melbourne Street Pharmacy, Adelaide.

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What can a Zero Waste Box do for your pharmacy?



Help you protect the environment!

TerraCycle makes it possible to recycle rubbish destined for landfills or incineration.



Improve community and staff engagement!

Offering in-store recycling for staff and customers shows your commitment to serving your community sustainably.



Drive footfall and gain new customers!

Your sustainable actions will increase brand awareness and cement loyalty in new and existing customers.



Zero Waste Box FAQs

How does the Zero Waste Box system work?

Follow these four simple steps to use the Zero Waste Box recycling solution at your business:



Order: Select a Zero Waste Box on the website and [place your order](#).



Collect: Assemble the box and tell your colleagues and customers to drop off accepted items.



Ship: When full, tie off the inner bag, tape up the box and send it back to TerraCycle! Boxes come with a prepaid return shipping label, so just attach and then drop it off at Australia Post.

The maximum shipping weight is **20kg** for both small and medium Zero Waste Boxes.



Reorder: Order your next Zero Waste Box to continue recycling.

What does the price of a Zero Waste Box cover?

The cost of a Zero Waste Box reflects the production of the box; transportation to you and then back to our recycling facilities; and the actual cost of sorting, cleaning, processing, and recycling the contents.

How long will it take for my Zero Waste Box to be delivered?

Your boxes will be shipped to you within 7-10 business days after order confirmation.

How does TerraCycle recycle the contents of Zero Waste Boxes?

The contents of your Zero Waste Box are sorted and processed into raw materials that can be reused. For example, plastics are separated by number (aka the '[resin code](#)'), melted down and turned into pellets that can be moulded and extruded to produce new products. View our process [here](#).

Order a Zero Waste Box to make a difference to the environment, meet your sustainability goals and increase business footfall. And, we're offering a 20% discount on your first purchase!

Use code **PHARMA20** at checkout.

ORDER YOUR ZERO WASTE BOX TODAY



Have any questions?

Contact Customer Support on 1800 983 324 or customersupport@terracecycle.com.au