

COMMITTED TO

# SUSTAINABILITY IN HEALTHCARE

VinylPlus® Med brings together hospitals, adult day care centers, waste managers, recyclers, and the PVC industry to recycle discarded single-use PVC medical devices, with the aim to accelerate sustainability in healthcare across Europe.



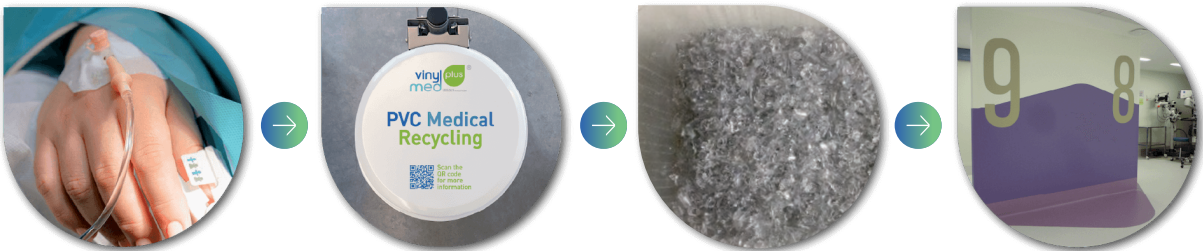
PVC is the most common plastic used in life-saving disposable medical devices, including oxygen and anaesthetic masks, tubing, IV and dialysis bags. Many of these devices can be recycled.

COVID-19 has highlighted the crucial role played by single-use plastic medical devices in the prevention and control of infection in hospitals. The surge in the need of such disposable items has shed light on the challenges of properly managing and discarding them after use. Properly sorting and recycling the non-infectious plastic waste can significantly reduce the environmental impact of hospitals and their operational cost.

Across the hospitals network, the high-quality PVC waste of various departments is collected and recycled. Some hospitals plan to work with adult day care centres to sort the waste. The waste has not been in contact with infectious patients and is free of substances of concern.

Pioneered in Australia and New Zealand in 2009, the recycling of PVC medical disposables is now practiced globally by hundreds of hospitals from 9 countries.

## From medical tubing to hospital wall covering



The high quality, colorless medical PVC waste collected at VinylPlus® Med hospitals can be turned into a wide range of useful products used in the healthcare sector. An example is vinyl wall covering, which can incorporate regrind PVC obtained through an environmentally benign process. Vinyl wall covering

is hygienic, dimensionally stable and resistant to chemicals. Due to its durability and shock-absorbent properties, vinyl is ideal for walls which have to be protected from collisions with beds and other types of hospital equipment. Vinyl also helps to create a holistic architectural design expression.

## A growing network

Interest for VinylPlus® Med is growing in the Belgian healthcare community. More than 10 hospitals are currently taking part of the PVC recycling programme and more than 30 are on the waiting list to join.

## VinylPlus® Med partners



The project gathers Raff Plastics as the recycler, Renewi as the waste management company and VinylPlus® for the European PVC industry. All Belgian VinylPlus® Med partners are located within a radius of 120 km, to minimise transport distances and thus mitigate carbon footprint.

For additional information, visit our website: [www.vinylplusmed.eu](http://www.vinylplusmed.eu)

**VinylPlus® Med contact:**  
Vincent Stone, Project Leader  
[vincent.stone@vinylplus.eu](mailto:vincent.stone@vinylplus.eu)