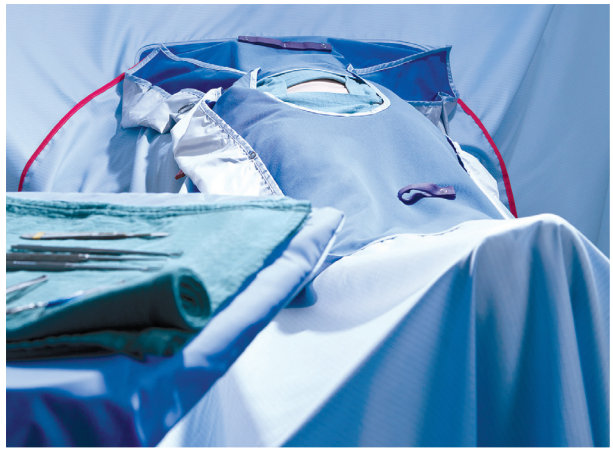
LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT OF SURGICAL DRAPES AND TAPES

REUSABLE & DISPOSABLE



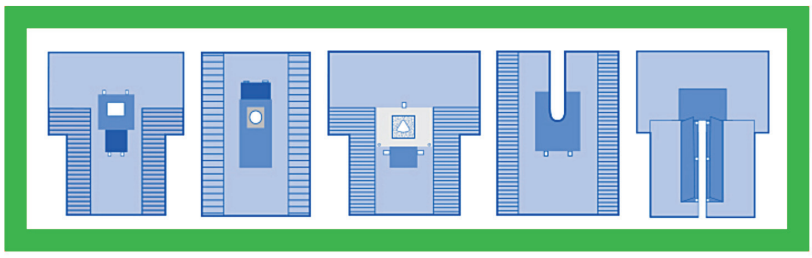
HEALTHCARE GOES GREEN

A life cycle assessment done using European energy modules and the CML impact method showed that the reusable drape system has substantially lower environmental impacts. The reusable drape system also outperformed the disposable drape system in all three environmental indicators studied within the present analysis.

There appear to be increased environmental benefits for many hospital covering items that are reusable versus disposable. Thus, adding the life cycle of other textile and non-textile items found in healthcare facilities (including surgical drapes and tapes) would further strengthen the environmental benefits of reusable systems.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The majority of regulated medical waste is produced in the OR from the use of disposable surgical supplies.
- Disposable drapes are landfilled or incinerated for energy production at end-of-life. Reusable drapes are made available for recycling into other products.
- Surgical drapes and tapes substantially lower the risk of post-operative infections and reduce sources of contamination to lower the healthcare cost and morbidity.
- Evaporation of transpiration molecules cool the body. Breathable materials keep the body temperature steady. High-performance textiles are designed for high-performance surgeries.



Get the right surgical drape for every procedure.

REUSABLE AND DISPOSABLE COMPARED IN THREE ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

80% Solid Waste Generation: Improvement from selecting reusable system.

62% Blue Water Consumption: Improvement from selecting reusable system.

38% Natural Resource Energy Consumption: Improvement from selecting reusable system.

<3% The surgical tape manufacture and delivery (including tape supply chain) account for less than 3% of the cradle-to-end-of-life net NRE for reusable and disposable drape systems.

Life cycle assessment of surgical drapes and tapes reusable and disposable - Environment Clarity Inc. (E. Vozzola, M. Overcash, E. Griffing) - October 2018

The American Reusable Textile Association (ARTA) mission is to promote greater appreciation for reusable textiles.

www.ARTA1.com