

Reusable isolation gowns dramatically reduce environmental footprint



Isolation gown life cycle environmental results

Isolation gown life cycle results continue the conclusions from six other reusable/disposable gown/coverall studies that show reusables provide a significant improvement in energy, environmental footprint, blue water*, and energy associated emissions.

*Blue water represents water that is used and not returned to the source, and thus represents depletion of a fresh water source.

Selecting reusable isolation gowns instead of disposable alternatives decreases the environmental footprint by:



30%

Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (measured as CO₂ eq emissions)

28%
Reduction

in natural resource energy consumption

41%

Reduction in total water consumed (blue water)

93%-99%



Reduction in solid waste generation at healthcare facility*

*End users can count these improvements as a credit toward improving their sustainability programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRADLE-TO-END-OF-LIFE CYCLE

CRADLE-TO-GATE LIFE CYCLE



Natural Resources From Earth



Raw Material Acquisition



Product Manufacturing



Use Phase



End-of-Life (EOL)

GATE-TO-GATE LIFE CYCLE

Environmental cradle-to-end-of-life cycle

Isolation gowns were studied thoroughly from material extraction from the earth, to the manufacture of the gown product, to use/laundry/reuse, to final end-of-life. This scope and the results emphasize transparent, science-based life cycle analysis.

Results can be customized to similar products. The life cycle results are easily tailored to individual companies with similar products. They can expand on this report for their own specific products that might have differences and thus save money on any new life cycle.

The ARTA-IAHTM Isolation Gown LCA was funded by the **ARTA Life Cycle Assessment Committee**. Read the complete study in the August 2018 issue of the *American Journal of Infection Control*. www.ARTA1.com.

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