

SSO SURGICAL ONCOLOGISTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Did you know?

Everyday, the operating rooms in the US generate $\approx$ **2000** tons of waste.

This is equal to the weight of **31** blue whales.



1 whale = 65 tons

Daily red bag waste is equal to **2.5** blue whales.

! 8% (160 tons) is **RED BAG** waste, which requires $\approx$ 20 times more resources for disposal.



What can we do?

- Properly use red bags for saturated gowns and drapes
- Lightly soiled materials do not need to go into red bags
- Inform others in the OR and involve supervisors to update education and training

Resources

<https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/what-would-it-mean-health-care-organizations-justly-manage-their-waste/2022-10>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7351340/>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSE/M/CDPH%20Document%20Library/EMB/MedicalWaste/MedWaste%20Reduction%20Interventions.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com