

# Make the difference: Refill and Recycle

SARSTEDT. Responsibility is part of our identity.



Life Science



# How sustainable can pipette tips be?

## Making your laboratory routines more sustainable

The use of plastic consumables is unavoidable in scientific laboratories. From Pipette tips and Petri dishes to disposable gloves, it is an indispensable part of the daily workflow. However, increasing awareness of environmental issues and sustainability presents us with the challenge of minimising our plastic consumption and finding more sustainable alternatives.

Besides a responsible approach to consumables, using reusable materials instead of disposable ones and promoting reusable systems can also help keep plastic consumption to a minimum. This is exactly where we come in. To offer you a solution that is both efficient and environmentally friendly, we have developed our Refill Revolution pipette tips. With our unique refill system, we provide a sustainable solution that saves both costs and space.

After use, you can collect our used tip boxes and return them to us to complete our recycling loop. We do this by using the collected and recycled plastics to manufacture new products such as our S-Monovette racks. Make your day-to-day laboratory work more sustainable with the SARSTEDT recycling process. Read the following pages to find out how we can help you improve sustainability in the laboratory by taking some simple steps.



## In 2022 we recovered 656 kg of plastic

In recent years, technological developments have led to an exponential increase in the use of plastics and single-use consumables in laboratories. Certain professionals wanted to take action and they approached suppliers of consumables whose services included plastic recycling, including SARSTEDT. In July 2020 a virtuous new plastic recycling channel came into being, avoiding the incineration of empty boxes. All the SARSTEDT plastic boxes are recycled through this channel. In 2022, the recycling process recovered 656 kg of plastic and saved 690 kg CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Sabine Berhouet, Marielle Lahiton** /  
CHU de Bordeaux / Bordeaux University Hospital



## SARSTEDT is giving plastics a second life

Aware that we generate a lot of plastic waste in our molecular biology laboratory, we were looking for a recycling solution, particularly for empty tip boxes. SARSTEDT offered us their solution of taking back and shredding all their boxes, giving these plastics a second life. So we set up a collection circuit for the boxes in each technical room. Every quarter, around 100 kilos of plastic are sent for recycling. In practice, the tip boxes are dismantled and stored in cardboard boxes. Shipment is scheduled with SARSTEDT's recycling department and the labeled boxes are transported by carrier to the processing site.

**Lenha Mobuchon** / CHU de Nantes /  
Nantes University Hospital



## ... it's the small actions that really make a difference

All the suppliers are working on sustainability and they are all dealing with the big aspects, but it's the small actions that really make a difference. Part of this is improving the sustainability of the consumable items that we purchase. SARSTEDT provides a high level of dedication and support in all aspects of our partnership, this is reflected in the Tip Recycling Scheme. In this area SARSTEDT has prioritised to support our needs above all else on certain occasions.

**Joshua Kerry-Smith** / CULTECH Ltd.





# One system – three options

## The revolutionary refill scheme for pipette tips

SARSTEDT's Refill Revolution marks a significant step towards increasing sustainability in laboratory environments worldwide. With this innovative scheme, SARSTEDT offers an environmentally friendly solution for the use of pipette tips by reducing the amount of plastic waste generated without compromising on precision and reliability.

By introducing a clever refill system, the Refill Revolution enables laboratories to replenish their used pipette tip boxes easily and efficiently. This not only helps to reduce plastic consumption, but also optimises logistics and storage in everyday laboratory work. It also saves a considerable amount of time in daily laboratory routines. Join the SARSTEDT Refill Revolution and find out for yourself how sustainability and high scientific standards can go hand in hand.



Discover the 360° solution for your pipettes from SARSTEDT:  
[refillrevolution.sarstedt.com](https://refillrevolution.sarstedt.com)



### The box

- Easy to refill thanks to its unique design
- Space-saving stacking system
- Universal and robust
- Secure lid
- Autoclavable box
- Recyclable box and tray
  - ▶ Easy to stack inside one another, takes up little space when collected
- Optional rubber feet available for slip resistance



### The SingleRefill

- Easy to refill thanks to its unique design
- Up to 41% less plastic material than the box
- Saves energy and resources during production
- Simple, fast refilling, available at the highest purity level
- Maximum hygiene and safety
- Combining sustainability and efficiency in the laboratory



### The StackPack

- Efficient and sustainable
  - ▶ Low material consumption with a high throughput
- Time-saving thanks to the stacking system with 480 tips per StackPack
- Saves up to an incredible 70% in storage space compared with the box
- Economical stacking system
- Effective protection against contamination
- Easy removal of individual trays
- Suitable for refilling or for direct use from the stack



> **Are the pipette tips also compatible with my pipettes?**

> **Do the tips meet the compliance requirements according to ISO 8655?**

**FIND OUT MORE!**

### **SARSTEDT – A solution for everything. The advantages of compatibility for you:**

Does your laboratory use different pipette types? Thanks to SARSTEDT, you only need one supplier for pipette tips! Pipette tips from SARSTEDT are compatible with various pipette suppliers. The risk of contamination is minimised thanks to precise manufacturing and an optimum fit, and the tips provide maximum precision when collecting and dispensing liquids. With SARSTEDT, everything comes from a single source – and thanks to the bundled delivery, our tips will also help make your laboratory more sustainable.

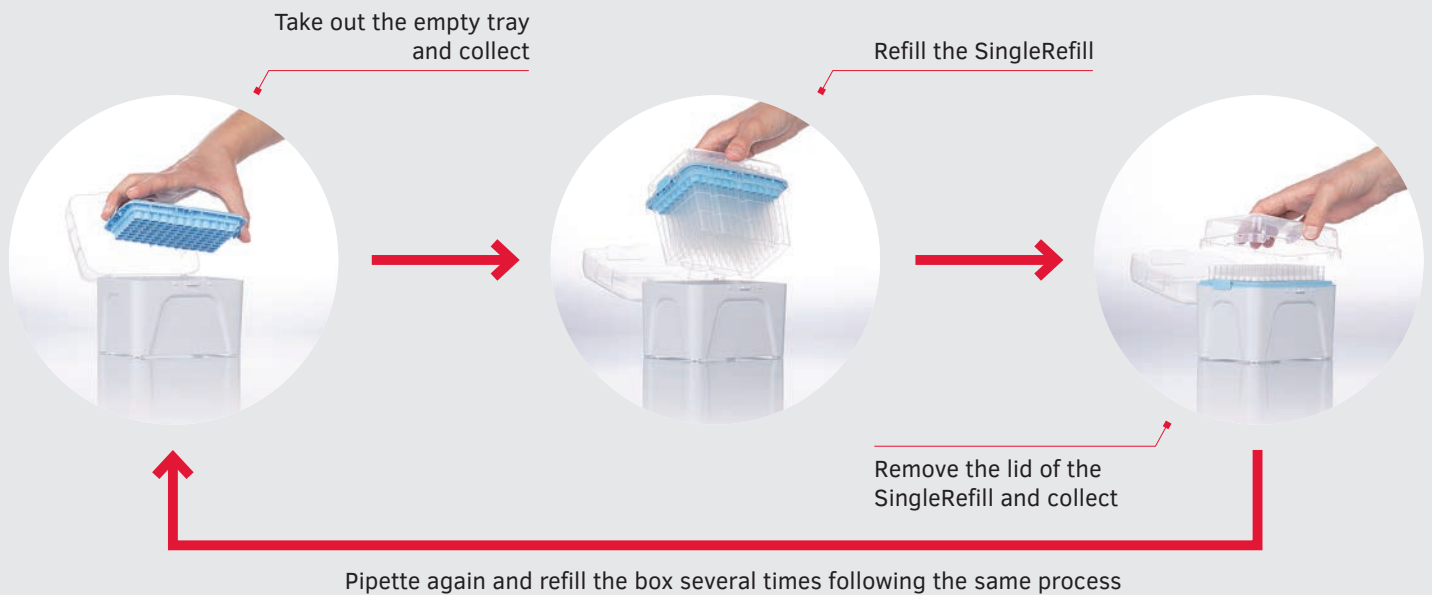


[sarstedt.com/  
compatibility-  
overview-pipette-tips](https://www.sarstedt.com/compatibility-overview-pipette-tips)



# What's next?

Our raw materials – valuable and reusable



## Why?

Our box is designed for optimum storage of pipette tips and is made of high-quality, virgin plastic. No time-consuming separation is necessary for recycling. The materials can be easily reprocessed and reused for new products. This is environmentally friendly and conserves resources!

## What?

The box systems for our pipette tips are valuable. With our recycling scheme, they are returned to be specifically reused. In cooperation with our logistics partners, first we collect the empty boxes centrally. The plastics are then transported to a local recycling company and processed there. We then use the resulting regranulate for new products.

## How?

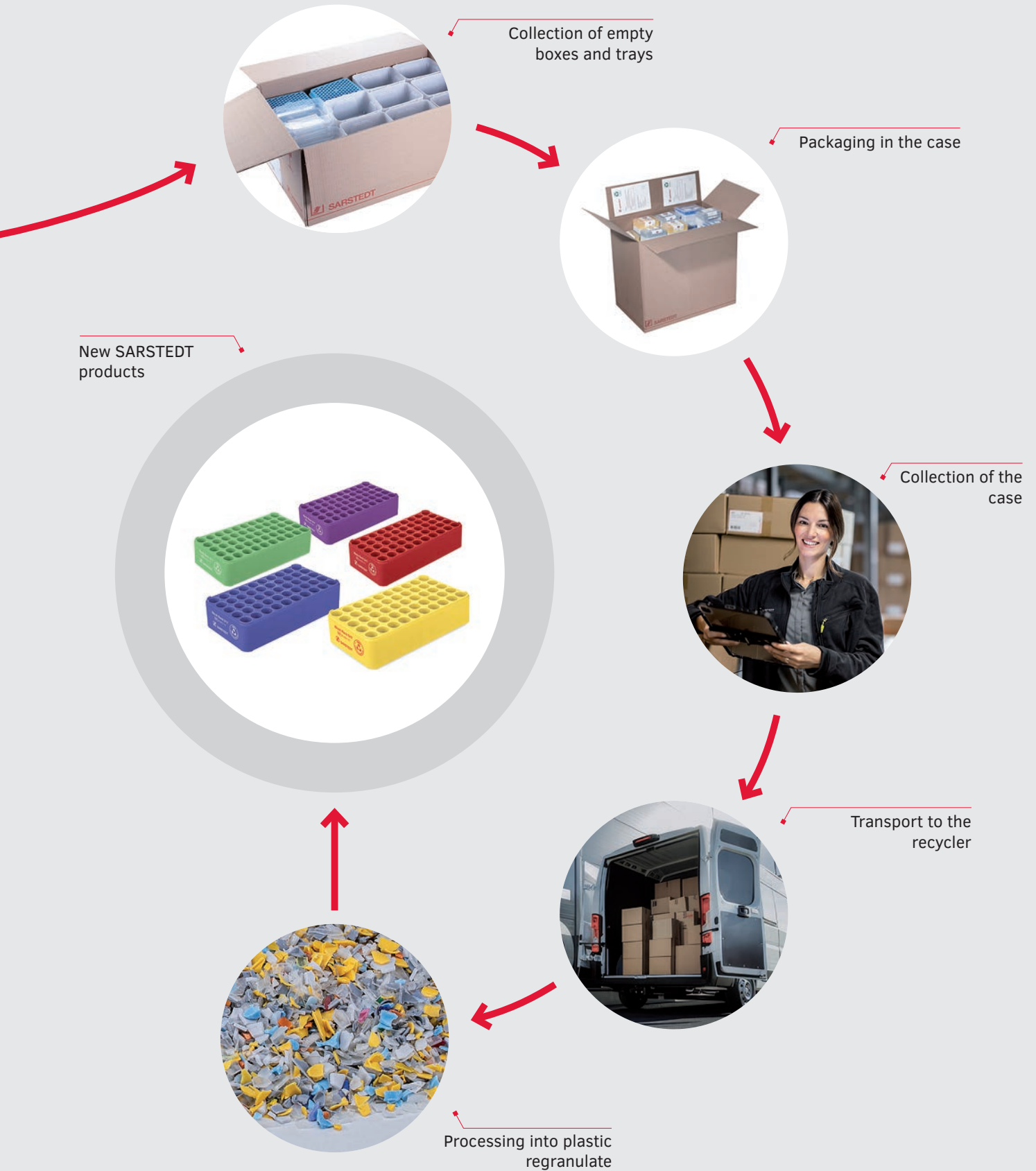
We take all the steps needed for successful recycling for you! Place the individual components of the box, the SingleRefill and the StackPack in one compact stack and pack them in a suitable case. Enclose the contamination clearance certificate and contact us to collect the package free of charge. That's how easy it is to help conserve valuable raw materials!

## Recycling process:

- The empty boxes, trays and lids, including stickers, are collected in a large case.
- The returns form is filled out and collection is ordered e.g. by e-mail.
- The boxes are collected from customers free of charge and sent to the local recycling partner. SARSTEDT will bear the costs of collection and transport.
- The boxes are processed into regranulate by the recycler.
- SARSTEDT uses the regranulate to produce new racks. SARSTEDT then closes the cycle by offering new racks made from recycled plastic.



**FIND OUT MORE!**  
[refill-recycle.sarstedt.com](http://refill-recycle.sarstedt.com)



# Great savings potential

64% less plastic material in production



We are setting new standards with our innovative recycling scheme and this commitment is reflected in some impressive results. We are focussed on sustainability right from developing concept and design of our box systems, reducing the use of plastic materials in our pipette tip production by as much as 64%. This is a significant step towards protecting the environment and conserving resources. For Example, refilling the SingleRefills (200 µl) saves 35.8% CO<sub>2</sub> compared to the box.

By recycling our pipette tip boxes, we close the material cycle. This means that the collected material is reused for manufacturing new products. This significantly reduces the need for new raw materials and helps make production more sustainable.

In 2023, we collected over 20,000 kg of polypropylene. This corresponds to 434,216 200 µl SingleRefill boxes, for example (with an average weight of 46 g per box). This 20 tonnes of recycled polypropylene can produce over 100,000 new racks, saving 38% CO<sub>2</sub> compared to using virgin plastic.\* Our recycling scheme is currently available in 10 countries and is being expanded continuously.

This demonstrates our commitment to global environmental protection and resource conservation. Together we can make the world a better place – box by box, system by system.



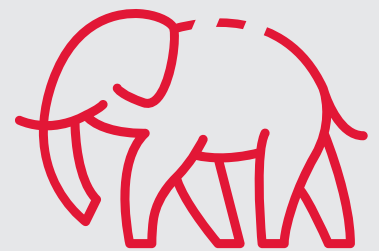
# Global progress

Every box makes a difference



# 434,216

200 µl SingleRefill boxes collected in 2023



The boxes collected in 2023 are equivalent to the weight of five adult elephants

# 20,000 kg

Polypropylene fed into the recycling process in 2023

# 102,145

new racks can be produced from the regranulate

## Become part of the cycle

Are you also interested in becoming part of this comprehensive recycling process with SARSTEDT? Then please contact us, even if the recycling scheme is not yet available to you.



**FIND OUT MORE!**  
[refill-recycle.sarstedt.com](https://refill-recycle.sarstedt.com)



# Sustainability in the laboratory

## A scheme close to our hearts

Unfortunately, a great deal of plastic waste is created in a cell culture laboratory, as so much of the packaging has to be sterile and for single use. Our working group is involved in the Green Lab concept, so we are keen to save resources wherever possible. As part of our accreditation as a Green Lab\*, we carry out a waste analysis and look at how we can improve the use of plastics in the laboratory. Using recyclable packaging and pipette tip boxes from SARSTEDT helps us to achieve our sustainability goals.

With SARSTEDT's SingleRefills and sterile StackPacks, we not only save storage space, but energy too, as autoclave cycles are no longer necessary.

The video explained how to handle of the refill system in an easily comprehensible way. The process for returning the collected packaging is also very well thought out. The type purity of the plastic used also ensures that waste can be reused in new products in an optimised way. We are delighted to be able to play an active and positive part in environmental protection and creating a more sustainable future in this way.



Andrea Frank / University of Heidelberg

\* A Green Lab is a sustainable research laboratory that uses environmentally friendly practices to reduce energy consumption and waste.



# Responsibility leads to sustainability.

For over 60 years, our family-run company has combined a profound understanding of long-term thinking with expertise along the entire value chain. Our approach to sustainability is based on the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on the areas of health, education, climate protection and sustainable production. Since 2023, we have been transparent in aligning our company with the standards of the UN Global Compact to ensure that our strategy follows globally recognised principles.

Our commitment is evident in efficient processes, minimised resource consumption and innovative, resource-saving solutions. We attach great importance to sensible recycling to ensure that natural resources are used responsibly.



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If you have any questions,  
we'll be happy to help!

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[www.sarstedt.com](http://www.sarstedt.com)

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