

Sustainable Lab Purchasing Guidance



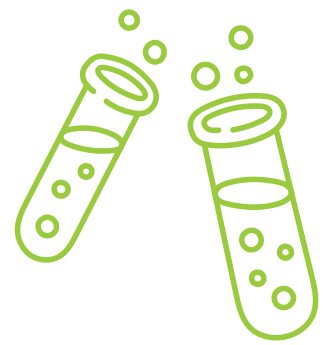
UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
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Purchasing Tips



Choose reusable options for lab consumables, including:

- Instead of purchasing new pipette tip boxes, reuse boxes and purchase refillable tip racks, saving up to 70%.
- Other reusable wares to consider include media storage bottles, beakers, flasks, and more.


Look for the ACT (accounting, consistency, and transparency) label.

ACT.
The Environmental Impact Factor Label

Product Name:
Manufacturing Location:

Environmental Impact Scale
Decreasing Environmental Impact

Category	Score
Manufacturing	
Manufacturing Impact Reduction	7.0
Renewable Energy Use	No
Responsible Chemical Management	10.0
Shipping Impact	7.0
Product Content	4.3
Packaging Content	5.7
User Impact	
Energy Consumption (kWh/day)	6.0
Water Consumption (gallons/day)	11.0
Product Lifetime	2.0
End of Life	
Packaging	8.5
Product	9.0
Environmental Impact Factor	53.5
Label Valid Through	October 2020

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these values are graded on a scale of 1-10, with 1 indicating the least environmental impact and 10 indicating the highest environmental impact

this category is either yes or no

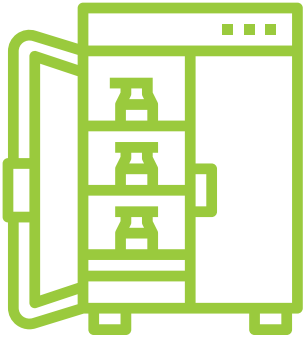
these values represent actual daily consumption and apply only to equipment

a lower number indicates a lower overall environmental impact

The sum total of all values equals the Environmental Impact Factor

ACT labels are valid for two years from the date of issue

detailed scoring explanations for each category are outlined in the verification guide



Purchasing Tips

If purchasing large appliances like freezers and refrigeration units, look for the Energy STAR certification.

If purchasing a new fume hood, look for Variable Air Volume (VAV).

Prioritize purchasing items from vendors that utilize more sustainable packaging materials.

- Ex. paper coolers instead of styrofoam, packing paper instead of styrofoam packing peanuts or plastic air pillows

Consolidate orders and buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste and greenhouse gas emissions associated with shipping.



UMB Resources

Utilize Lab Share

- If you have extra lab supplies or equipment that you would like to share with other labs on campus or you are in need of a particular item for your lab, utilize UMB Lab Share.
- Submit any item(s) you no longer need here.
- See what items are currently available here.

Need packaging supplies to ship samples or other materials? Swing by BIORESCO (in the MSTF Atrium) to pick up free materials like bubble wrap, boxes, and more!

For additional Green Labs information and resources, visit:

umaryland.edu/sustainability/campus-initiatives/green-labs



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