Sustainability and Environmental FAQ

Are Planex products made from recycled material?

Yes, environmental sustainability is a core value embedded in the conception, design, manufacture, delivery and longevity of our products. Our environmental management system's performance is third-party audited against the ISO14001 standard.

Planex lockers and storage cabinets:

- Contain recycled content.
- Can be fully recycled.
- Are tested for safety and durability for Blue Tick certification by AFRDI-Furntech.
- Are tested and certified with Platinum Green Tick by AFRDI-Furntech and GECA.
- Contain between 94%-99% by weight Australian made BlueScope steel (24.2% recycled content) that is 100% recyclable. Near-sourcing Australian steel provides country-of-origin transparency and cradle-to-grave credentials. There are no hidden transport GHG emissions from Australian iron ore and coal exports and steel imports.

Can Planex products be recycled at the end of their lives?

Yes, Planex product are designed for recycling:

- Products are designed for disassembly with information on segregation and parts recycling.
- Conscious choice of other materials such as 100% recyclable polymers and aluminium.
- Stewardship Policy for responsible disposal.
- Extending product life by replacing worn or damaged parts (10-year Replacement Parts Policy).
- Confidence in product longevity and usability guaranteed by our 10-year Product Warranty.
- Availability of common parts keeps products working well beyond 10-year warranty period.

Does Planex use packaging containing recycled/recyclable materials?

Yes, suppliers of packaging material are selected based on their environmental credentials

- Planex's packaging is mainly Australian-made cardboard with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain-of-Custody certification. Planex recycles its cardboard packaging via accredited local recyclers.
- Soft polymer packaging is Australian-made with a minimum 15% recycled content (rising to 25% by 2025). It is covered by the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation, of the ANZPAC Plastics Pact.
- Used polymer packaging is type-sorted at Planex and recycled via accredited recyclers. Polymer offcuts are also internally recycled within the plant.
- Planex contractors that deliver, unpack and install our products collect recyclable waste packaging for appropriate disposal at local recycling centres.

Where does the recycled content come from?

- Most of our recycled content comes from the BlueScope steel that makes up over 94% by weight of our products. BlueScope boasts 98% materials efficiency in steel production substituting 24.2 % of virgin raw materials (17.4% as pre- and post-consumer content plus a 6.8% content of steel that is recycled but originating from within Bluescope's operations.
- Cardboard packaging originating from plantation forests tracked through the Forest Stewardship Council has recycled fibre content mainly from post-consumer sources.
- Soft polymer and foam polythene packaging incorporates post-consumer recycled plastic.

How much recycled content is in Planex products?

With BlueScope steel amounting to 94 % by weight of Planex products and the steel itself having 24% recycled content we can confidently say our cabinets have, on average, 22% recycled content.

How does Planex divert waste from landfill?

Globally, powder coating annually generates up to 1M tonnes of unrecoverable waste powder - an intractable microplastic waste that usually goes to landfill to potentially leach to soil, waterways and oceans. The waste is in need of more responsible stewardship. Planex has taken a lead in the powder coat industry showing that it is possible to use this waste in the circular economy in one of four ways:

1. Making counterweights in-house for drawer cabinets.
2. Use of mixed recycled powdercoat material to coat internal surfaces where a uniformly coloured decorative finish is not necessary. Recycled powder has the same physical properties as virgin powder coat material.
3. Collaborating with UNSW to show in a proof-of-principle project that powder coat waste may be used as a raw material in Green Ceramics™ and that its incorporation improves the performance of these ceramic products.
4. By showing that pyrolysis is a way of recovering valuable resources for re-use. This is a proof-of-principle project that Planex initiated at Monash University with industry partners to demonstrate a globally-applicable method. Pyrolysis is likely to be the speediest way to recover resources from the waste, and the method is now in need of scaling up with funding by the powder coat industry; the wet paint industry's Paint Back Scheme is a model of such stewardship.

These four projects help Planex move towards a closed loop system of materials usage.

Commitment

Planex's commitment to recycling at end-of-life are integral to certification by GECA, AFRDI-Furntech Green Ticks, ISO14001. Additionally, Planex is part of the United Nations Global Compact and commits to its Ten Principles of good corporate citizenship; in particular, for recycling and betterment of the environment.