

Seward launches autoclavable Stomacher bag to reduce plastic waste in lab testing

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Innovative technology develops robust paddle blender bags for food microbiology testing processes that reduces plastic waste by up to 50%

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Seward developed the bag in response to a request by a global food giant customer, to produce a sterile blender bag that would help solve a number of problems it was facing in their food testing processes. Using innovative technology, Seward was able to develop a bag that was robust enough to withstand both the physical demands of the blending action and subsequent autoclaving.

An extensive evaluation at the company showed that Seward's new [autoclavable Stomacher® bag](#) reduced processing times and labour costs by eliminating the need to double bag samples before autoclaving. In addition, this meant a significant reduction in the amount of single-use plastic used during the process.

The company has estimated that using the new Stomacher bag in only one site will save almost \$31k annually, due to reduced need for materials and a saving of over two hrs a day in processing time, and also use 1,100 Kg less plastic each year.

"Using single-use plastic is not only detrimental to the environment, it is costly, and as a business Seward is always striving for ways to reduce, re-use or recycle wherever possible," said Stuart Ray, Seward's Technical Director. "In microbiology

testing, we aren't yet able to eliminate all single-use plastic, however we knew there must be a way of reducing it. I'm happy to say that the new Stomacher bag has surpassed our expectations".