



## Waste materials that GCS Collects



### Hair

#### What is included?

Hair clippings and human hair extensions.

#### Where does it go?

GCS collects the hair, and this natural material is stored in a climate-controlled warehouse environment. It can then be composted with other organic waste, turned into bio-composite plastic to make new products like recycling bins, used to research and develop new environmental technology like insulation and stormwater filtration, and made into products to be used for humanitarian efforts.

**Alternatively,** when hair is sent to landfill, it does what all organic materials do - it tries to decompose. However, in a bag, the hair does not get the light or air it needs to break down. Without this light and air, it becomes anaerobic and releases methane, which is a potent gas that contributes to climate change.



### Metals

#### What is included?

Salon metals. This includes aluminum foils, colour tubes, aerosols cans.

#### Where does it go?

GCS collects the metals, and they are taken to recycling facilities where they are sorted by grade and type and can be combined with other types of metal to be made into other products. In the process, chemical waste contaminants are lifted off the metal and kept from entering the atmosphere. These high-grade metals can be melted down and reused several times with very little degradation in quality.



## Excess Hair Colour

### What is included?

Excess liquid products including excess colour, peroxide and developer.

### Where does it go?

GCS collects the excess colour and it is stored in secure barrels before being collected by a licensed chemical waste disposal company. It is separated into oil and water components, and the liquid waste is then put through a closed-loop incineration process where it is turned into energy, which is then injected into the local power grid to power homes and businesses. The water content, which is removed in the chemical separation process, is then decontaminated and reused as greywater. The separated oil products can be blended into fuel.

**Alternatively,** when salon chemicals enter our aquifers and waterways, they are difficult and costly to remove. Chemical waste ultimately becomes a pollutant for marine wildlife through bioaccumulation and contaminates our drinking water and soil.



## Single-use Items

### What is included?

A variety of aesthetics materials (including wax strips, popsicle sticks, cotton balls, spa table paper, and more) as well as salon products including perm cotton and colour caps.

### Where does it go?

GCS collects the SUI and it is put through a closed-loop incineration process where it is turned into energy, which is then injected into the local power grid to power homes and businesses. The leftover ash can be used as filler in asphalt and other construction materials, like brick.



## Paper

### What is included?

Paper materials including paper, rinsed coffee cups, cardboard, newspaper and magazines.

### Where does it go?

GCS collects the paper products and sends them to one of our partner facilities where it is sorted by grade, broken down into paper pulp, and used to make new paper products or cellulose insulation.



## Plastics

### What is included?

Plastic materials with a recycling symbol on it as well as plastic lids. GCS collects the plastic products and sends it to one of our partner facilities where they sort it by type, clean it, ground it into small pieces, and use it to make new products such as shampoo bottles.

### Where does it go?

GCS collects the plastic products and sends them to one of our partner facilities where they sort it by type, clean it, grind it into small pieces, and use it to make new products such as shampoo bottles.

## Other materials that GCS Collects:

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

GCS collects PPE to be mechanically recycled into pellets that are then incorporated into new plastic products such as PPE and other healthcare products (bedpans, etc.)

### Mannequin Heads

GCS collects mannequin heads and stores them to be repurposed for art projects, and other end-of-life applications. Heads with significant amounts of hair still intact can be reused in the training of cutting and styling services. Depending on the material that the mannequin heads are made of, some can also go into the plastics material stream. Remaining materials are put through a closed-loop incineration process where they are turned into energy, which is then injected into the local power grid to power homes and businesses. The leftover ash can be used as filler in asphalt and other construction materials, like brick.

### Salon Tools

GCS collects salon tools and takes them to a local recycling facility where they are sorted and stripped for raw materials & components alongside other E-waste such as cell phones, computers, and household appliances.

### Batteries

GCS collects batteries and takes them to a local recycling facility where they can be drained of their minerals.

**Alternatively**, the toxins from batteries that would otherwise be polluting landfill sites can be used in future battery making, while the other components of the battery can be used in a variety of manufacturing and agricultural processes.

### Future Endeavours

Exciting changes are always happening, and we will continue to share them with you as they evolve!