

Marbast® Discussion Document

Introduction

Marbast® have been major suppliers of hospital cubicle curtain track and privacy curtains for over 25 years.

This discussion document explains the benefits and features of disposable curtains.

Our system consists of two main elements:-

Firstly - The device to make hanging and removal of curtains simple and around a hundred times quicker.

Secondly - The actual disposable curtain, which is fire retardant, durable & aesthetically pleasing in its smart pre-pleated, pre-hooked form.

Disposable curtains can be taken down AND re-refitted in seconds

Disposable curtains can be hung around *ONE HUNDRED TIMES QUICKER* than conventional curtains.¹

Trials have shown that it takes around 3 hours PER 6 BED WARD using conventional curtains as opposed to seconds using the Marlux® Disposable Curtain System.

Disposable curtains look better

Because the curtains are pre-pleated they look incredibly neat. Sometimes, when curtain hooks are missing or if hooks aren't spaced out evenly conventional curtains can look very untidy.¹

With the Marlux® Disposable curtain system the hook is part of the curtain so there is no need to replace hooks!²

The pleating also means that the curtains stow in a smaller space so there is more light around the ward and better patient visibility.³

[1] With most channel type tracks (such as Silent Gliss, Antiferance, Movatrak & Roanoid) the curtain has to be offered to the track because the glider/hook is permanently fixed within the channel section. This makes it very difficult to space out the hooks evenly especially as conventional curtains are so bulky and heavy.

[2] A hook is ultrasonically welded to each pleat. The hook is an integral part of the curtain & gets thrown away with the dirty curtain.

[3] A disposable curtain will stow in about 100mm of space as opposed to at least 750mm.

Disposable curtains are cleaner

Because of the size and weight of conventional curtains, it is almost impossible to hook up and hang a conventional curtain ***without it coming into contact with the floor.***

Disposable curtains overcome this as they are covered with a protective sleeve that is only removed ***once the curtains are hanging.***

The hooks are thrown away with the curtain so there's no need to waste time disinfecting hook.

The size & weight of each of the curtains has been designed to be safely lifted and individual boxes are easily & conveniently stored on the ward or in pallet compatible multiples for central storage for decanting to individual wards.

Disposable curtains are safer for your staff

Hanging conventional curtains can be hazardous because they are often bulky & extremely heavy. Disposable curtains are so light they are easy to handle.

Disposable curtains meet the same fire retardancy standards as conventional curtains.

Wherever possible, our system allows for curtains to be taken down and refitted at the front of each cubicle in the 'corridor' space rather than at the 'bedhead', where avoiding lockers etc. can be hazardous.

Disposable curtains are cost effective

Compare the capital costs of conventional curtains on a typical 6 - bedded ward.

Cost effective

The use of Marlux® disposable curtains provides a modern and cost effective solution to the management of hospital curtains:

- Speed and ease of change, leads to considerably reduced labour costs
- No curtain laundry costs
- No capital outlay for curtains
- No disruption to ward areas during change of curtains
- Next day delivery available from Marshall bast Limited

Other products available from Marshall bast Limited:

Available in colours to match the cubicle curtains, the following are also available:

- Marlux® Disposable Shower Curtains
- Marlux® Disposable Window Curtains



Marlux® Quick Release Pins

The Marlux® disposable curtains have been designed to enable a quick change over of curtains. The hooks are held together in blocks of ten and secured with a Quick Release Pin. Once loaded, remove the red Quick Release Pins and the curtains are ready for use

Fitting

Fitting of the Marlux® disposable curtains has been designed to be quick and efficient. In most cases, existing track can be adapted, or the purpose built Marlux® 'Fast-Fit' cubicle and window curtain tracks can be installed

Recycling

Marshall bast Limited is committed to leading the industry in minimising the impact of its activities on the environment. All Marshall bast curtains are recyclable. We offer a recycling service which involves the collection of used, curtains (non clinical waste only) from your hospital. The curtains then get broken down and formed back into usable plastic products.

The key points of our strategy are:

- Minimise waste by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible
- Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst our customers and suppliers
- Source and promote a product range to minimise the environmental impact of both production and distribution.
- Meet or exceed all the environmental legislation that relates to our company.



For example;

6 x 6 width curtains
2 x 2 1/2 width curtains**
1 set of Conventional curtains
Cost about £1,400.00 *

**But even if you allow just 50% extra for
laundry the total capital cost for
conventional curtains would be about
£2,100.00**

* Source of average price of unlined curtains from 3 independent suppliers

What will disposable curtains cost?

The curtains will cost £20 for a standard 2 metre drop curtain which is 4.2 metres wide.
Extra large standard drop curtains which are 7.2 metres wide cost just £23.17.

On the typical 6 bedded ward you would need 6 Nr 7.2 metre wide curtains with a standard 2 metre drop. So that's 6 curtains @ £23.17 = £139.02.

This is possibly less than the true cost of taking down a set of dirty curtains, shipping them off to laundry, cleaning and rehanging, a few replacement hooks and repairs here and there and occasionally a curtain lost!

[1] In some hospitals curtains are changed only once a year. If that's the case you can have new fresh clean curtains (and hooks) every year without even exceeding the capital cost of 1 set of conventional curtains. Plus you're saving 10 years laundry and labour costs.

Disposable curtains are cost effective

In most instances disposable curtains show a considerable cost reduction when all relevant factors are considered.

Don't forget laundry costs.

Don't forget labour cost's for taking down curtains, for taking out, disinfecting and refitting hooks to clean curtains and finally rehanging.

Remember that the time taken *doesn't take into account* holidays, staff sickness and break-times.

Disposable curtains are cost effective

Plus hidden costs such as:-

Occasionally curtains don't come back to the right ward, or are lost at the laundry so creating inconvenience plus a replacement cost.

Sometimes hooks go missing and need replacing. Cubicle curtain hooks can be very expensive - up to £300 per thousand!

Consider the time taken to find curtains (and hooks) in an emergency.

When a D&V infection outbreak occurs it is important to have the ward back up & running as soon as possible.

How long will they last?

In certain cases it is obvious that curtains should be changed with each patient however, we would suggest that Infection Control officers carry out their own risk assessments and implement a change plan accordingly.

Marlux® Disposable Curtains are extremely durable. Tests have shown that our curtains will last for over 12 months!1

The Marlux® Disposable curtain system has been designed to help control infection *by making it easier and economical to change curtains more frequently.*

How often should they be changed?

Durability is not an issue. However, we recommend that you carry out your own risk assessment to ascertain the frequency which will no doubt vary according to the area of use.

One thing for certain though, at the moment it's often impossible to tell when a curtain was last cleaned. With Marlux® Disposable Privacy Curtains it's easy to tell because there are two labels on each curtain which clearly show the date the curtain was last changed, providing a simple and effective audit trail.

Can we use existing track?

In most instances the existing cubicle track can be adapted to take the disposable curtains. This adaptation includes the provision of the Marlux® Quick release pins.

Occasionally the track layout might need to be modified slightly.

Even if you decide to use conventional curtains as well as disposables on the same cubicle curtain track, fitting the quick release pin is good practice as this feature on its own saves time.

All hardware installed by Marshall Bäst Ltd. is guaranteed for a minimum of 10 years.

What about colours?

There are four standard colours, these are:



However, subject to quantity, we can produce the curtains in a variety of custom made or corporate colours.

Environmental

The fabric used in The Marlux® Disposable Curtain System is 100% polypropylene.

Polypropylene material has an environmental impact which is amongst the lowest of any material, synthetic or traditional.

Polypropylene is easy to recycle and re-use hence it is one of the most popular and profitable plastics for recyclers. Even if burnt it does not give off chlorine just water vapor and carbon dioxide which is converted by photosynthesis. - For more information visit www.letsrecycle.com.

Fire Retardancy

Fabric passes BS5867 Part 2 : 1980 Type C specification for fabrics used in curtains and drapes and contains the flammability requirements which fabrics must comply with when tested by one of the methods described in BS5438:1976

Antibacterial Properties

Marlux® disposable curtains have Microban® 3G Silver technology built-in at the point of manufacture.

This provides an additional level of protection against bacterial growth preventing up to 99.99% of harmful bacteria on the surface of the curtain.

What do I do next?

Please contact our sales office on +44 (0)845 1309074 to arrange for a site survey or email: sales@marbast.eu

All of the enabling works can be carried out now.