

# CLOTH PRIVACY CURTAINS VS RECYCLABLE CURTAINS

OR Sustainability Expert

**FIRST  
CASE**



**KAREN GOELST**  
CEO & FOUNDER OF KLEENEDGE

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## **Cloth Privacy Curtains vs Recyclable Curtains**

*Karen Goelst | CEO & Founder of KleenEdge*

Privacy curtains are used in pre-op and post-anesthesia care areas to provide patients with needed privacy.

Many surgical departments use cloth curtains, but the tide is turning toward disposable curtains that are made with recyclable polypropylene (poly) for the following reasons:

- Cloth curtains are frequently unsightly: Stains are present (is it blood or feces?); wrinkled fabric; torn mesh; grommets on the hooks in the track have come loose; they are too short or too long; panels don't match, and frequently have no labels to aid in monitoring exchange compliance.

- Disposable privacy curtains always look crisp and clean.

- To monitor compliance disposable curtains have labels or NFC technology documenting their exchange frequency.

- Another added advantage of disposable over cloth curtains is the huge impact they have on water conservation. Conserving water is beneficial to the environment, as is using less power. Avoiding the use of strong detergents also helps protect the country's waterways and wildlife.

- Disposable curtains, made of the same poly material such as medical gowns, face masks, and CSR wraps can be disposed of in a responsible way.

- Disposable curtains cost a fraction as compared to cloth curtains, saving a healthcare facility 90% in material costs

- Each disposable curtain panel is packaged individually so as to arrive at the bedside "sterile".

Finally, the attraction for hospitals switching away from cloth to disposable curtains in their pre- and post-op areas is the confidence that patients and staff are kept safe from risk of contamination.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Karen at [kgoelst@KleenEdge.com](mailto:kgoelst@KleenEdge.com)

*OR Sustainability Expert Series™ Biography:*

# Karen Goelst

## Founder & CEO



With a 20-year background in architectural specialties and textiles, Karen Goelst became passionate about solving the issues surrounding privacy curtains following her 15-year-old son's hospital stay with MRSA.

Staying at his bedside she noticed everybody touched the fabric privacy curtain, but the label showed that it hadn't been exchanged for 14 months. Thankfully her son recovered, but this realization started her journey in trying to understand why curtains weren't getting exchanged, when other touchpoints in the room were thoroughly disinfected. Karen founded KleenEdge to ensure this infection risk did not impact other families.

KleenEdge builds its privacy curtain solutions on 4 pillars:

- Protocol software that monitors curtain exchange compliance
- Sustainable cost-saving recyclable curtains
- No-ladder solutions to promote lean workflows and safety
- Patient and staff safety

Launched in 2018, the company received early accolades for its innovative Protocol Compliance Software, receiving AHE's Product Innovation Award, as well as getting patents for the QuickLoad and TeleTrack "no ladder" curtain exchange cubicle track solutions. KleenEdge's solutions have helped many healthcare facilities dramatically reduce operational costs, while having peace of mind knowing that their curtain exchanges are compliant and deliver the highest standard of care for their patient's safety.



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