



Is it **necessary** to purchase this item?

Assess the relevance of your need according to the principle of sobriety, the possibility of repairing an existing item or borrowing it

Don't buy
or reuse
existing goods



Is buying **new** essential?

Consider second-hand options by visiting EPFL's dedicated resources

Buy
second-hand



Can this item be
shared with other
units or labs?



Consider
a group purchase



Does this purchase
come under **public
procurement laws**?



Buy, but...

In the future, avoid
depending on this
product and
consider buying
another one



Does this product
comply with EPFL
recommendations?

Refer to dedicated purchase
guides and base your choice
on sustainability labels



Buy!

And keep up to
date with the
latest sustainable
purchasing
recommendations



- 🔍 Check out EPFL's **scientific equipment** exchange platform on [Sesame](#)
- 🔍 Check the availability of a **biological or chemical product** in other laboratories on [Catalyse](#)
- 🖨 Ask your IT manager whether this **IT equipment** is in stock somewhere in the school or university

When selecting your product, define sustainability criteria in collaboration with the [Procurement department](#)

View EPFL guides by purchasing category:

- 📄 [office supplies](#)
- 🔍 [laboratory consumables](#)
- 🖨 [IT equipment](#)
- 🔍 [scientific equipment](#)

✓ **Choose sustainable products:** long-lasting, rechargeable, repairable or guaranteed, built with strong and recyclable materials, etc.

✓ **Take into account the products' end-of-life:** what will happen to the components? Can they be recycled or reused?

Adopt a
"lifecycle"
approach