

A MINI GUIDE TO **HYGIENIC LAUNDRY**

Based on the RABC system/EN 14065



Electrolux Professional Hospitals and Care Homes





EXCELLENCE INSIDE

Technologies for maximum Hygiene and productivity

In hospitals, nursing homes, and other health-care institutions, a well controlled quality of linen hygiene is paramount. In this environment, there is no room for compromises.

Electrolux Professional is the global expert in linen hygiene solutions. To meet your level of excellence and bring you new, innovative and efficient solutions, we maintain an intensive dialogue with healthcare professionals

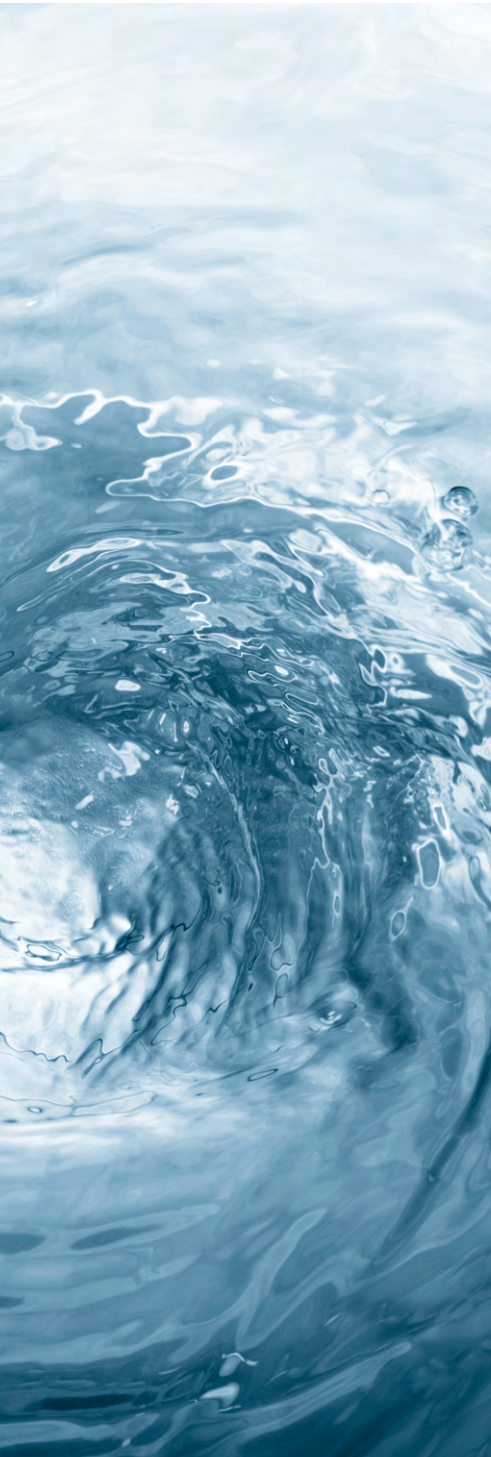
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A well controlled storage condition

HYGIENIC LAUNDRY



Laundry is found throughout a hospital or care home: uniforms, bed linen, catering articles, surgical dress, cleaning items (i.e. mops), patient clothing, etc. Laundry plays an essential role in patient comfort whilst protecting employees in their place of work.

Laundry is a potential carrier of healthcare acquired infections. It is therefore vital to control its flow. Special measures must be taken to ensure hygiene levels are maintained. The laundry items themselves must not pose a threat to health and remain innocuous at every stage of their storage, use and handling.

The key to this is to implement a strict process for all linen to be processed, whether it potentially poses a threat to health or not.

- ▶ Healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs) from linen are generally low, but nosocomial outbreaks reported with pathogens like *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Salmonella enterica*, and MRSA.
- ▶ Dirty linen poses germ spread risk, and must be handled carefully
- ▶ Comprehensive understanding of laundry processes, fabric use, and employee practices crucial
- ▶ Linen hygiene, integral to overall quality, involves auditing processes, risk assessments, preventative measures, standard operating procedures, and quality assurance procedures.
- ▶ Regular evaluation and monitoring of processes are essential for maintaining hygiene standards
- ▶ Service providers should be selected based on defined hygiene standards

7 Transportation



6 Packing Clean Linen



Clean zones

LAUNDRY CYCLE MANAGEMENT

A Critical Component in Hospital Hygiene and Safety

5



Drying & Ironing



BUILDING LAYOUT

Storing of clean linen in wards

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1 Presorting



2 Correct Bagging & Transportation



3 Sorting



4 Washing



- Set up clean zones and dirty zones separated by a barrier in the laundry room
- Use barrier washers (front load and rear unload wash-extractors) to effectively and consistently prevent cross contamination of laundry



01 PRESORTING

MEASURES RECOMMENDED UNDER EUROPEAN GUIDELINES

Dirty linen must be presorted at point of collection according to Textile family.

- Collect dirty linen in relation to the Textile family using the appropriate trolley.
- Each different linen is sorted into a separate section of the trolley in order to process quickly within the laundry.
- It is strongly advised to sort the linen at source as opposed to in the laundry room.

MUST KNOW

- Collect textiles separately
- Practice hand hygiene when collecting and presorting linen
- Do not bring dirty laundry into contact with clean laundry during collection

ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONALS



RISK

The packing does not meet the expected barrier properties (risk of infection)

- Hygiene and hand washing is an integral part of the collection of dirty linen. Staff members must adopt the correct guidelines and procedures for this set by the healthcare institution.
- Collection of dirty linen must be done wearing the appropriate protective clothing. This is usually disposable/reusable masks, gloves and aprons.
- Ensure only unsoiled linen is taken first and placed in the correct section of the trolley.
- Subsequently remove any soiled or infected linen from the bed, folding or rolling to contain or prevent aerosolization in other areas. Place this linen into the appropriate red or designated bag which is fit for this purpose. Please remember this bag must be sealed and placed in a separate section of any dirty linen trolley.
- At the end of the collection process, remove and dispose of mask, gloves and apron into bins.
- Wash hands thoroughly in line with healthcare guidelines.





02 CORRECT BAGGING & TRANSPORT

MEASURES RECOMMENDED UNDER EUROPEAN GUIDELINES

European norm no. EN 14065 recommends that dirty laundry be delivered to the laundry daily in coloured textile bags as follows:

Staff uniforms and “at risk” laundry is excluded from the above pre-sorting process.

it is recommended that the Laundry has a separate dirty and clean area. This good practice reduces the risk of cross contamination.

LARGE FLAT LAUNDRY

One colour for bags containing sheets etc, all types of textiles, all sizes.

SMALL FLAT LAUNDRY

One colour for bags containing pillow cases, bolster cases, catering laundry, etc.

LAUNDRY TO BE TUMBLE-DRIED

One colour for bags containing all towels, flannels etc.

ALL OTHER LAUNDRY

One colour for bags containing all other bedding, clothing, furnishings.

MUST KNOW

- Avoid cross-contamination to the environment
- Adapt transportation means to the routes (public areas/weather conditions)

ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONALS



RISK

The packing does not meet the expected barrier properties (risk of infection)

- Any packing or wrapping system, other than dirty laundry collection bags, specially designed for this purpose, must be avoided (e.g. bin bags, sheets knotted to form bundles).
- Only use textile bags. Plastic bags are more expensive and encourage mould to form which can seriously alter the fibres of the textiles.
- The colour of the bag must indicate its contents not its origin.
- Laundry bags must always be closed correctly once they are full.
- Always use clean collection bags that close properly and are in good condition. Dirty linen bags must be washed and dried upon every use.
- For ergonomic reasons, do not fill bags more than two-thirds full.
- The maximum ideal load should not exceed 10 kg. This will vary according to local occupational and work safety regulations.

RISK

Cross contamination (risk of infection)

- Dirty laundry must be packed without coming into contact with clean laundry.
- Mixed trolleys (clean and dirty) must never be used: use light weight collection trolleys that are easy to clean and disinfect.
- Closing the collection bags must not generate aero biocontamination: the type of collection trolley used (with or without cover, with or without foot pedal...) must be chosen in accordance with the risks of aero-biocontamination and cross contamination.
- The dirty laundry collection trolley must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- The dirty linen consolidation area must be at lower air pressure compared to the clean linen storage area.





03 SORTING

MEASURES RECOMMENDED UNDER EUROPEAN GUIDELINES

Check linen for sharp devices and other undesirable items before cleaning i.e. body parts, watches etc.

- Do not sort infected or “at risk” laundry bags.
- Sort non-infected dirty laundry only.
- Sort dirty laundry to check for sharps and dangerous items that may be harmful for operators or equipment downtime.
- Compile records of sharps or dangerous items detected, i.e. syringes, scalpels, scissors etc.
- Consolidate and weigh dirty linen by Textile family according to the washer capacity before loading in the washer extractor for optimal wash results.

MUST KNOW

- Do not store dirty linen for long periods of time
- Use Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) during sorting
- Never sort infected or “at risk” laundry bags

ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONALS



RISK

The packing does not meet the expected barrier properties, posing risk of infection to laundry staff.

- Never sort dirty laundry in the clean area, i.e. wards, lift lobbies etc.
- Never sort dirty laundry on the floor, it must be performed on a non porous surface that can be disinfected.
- Staff should wear mask, gloves and apron during linen handling. Any skin lesions on hands must be covered.
- Care must be taken to ensure all sharps or patient equipment is removed from linen. Injury from sharps hidden in linen is a significant risk for environmental services workers and laundry staff. Sharps also pose potential damage to the washing equipment.
- Hand hygiene must be practiced after linen handling.





04 WASHING

MEASURES RECOMMENDED UNDER EUROPEAN GUIDELINES

Choose the right wash program for each Textile family based on fundamentals of washing.

- Guarantee a complete decontamination of the washed linen
- Program your washers in accordance to the specifications of the linen.
- Develop a specific approach for “at risk” linen.

MUST KNOW

- Ensure that PPE is worn when handling soiled or infected linen
- Ensure correct loading into the washer-extractors by Textile families to achieve optimal mechanical action and economy
- Ensure the correct wash program is used for the Textile family to achieve appropriate decontamination of the washed linen

ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONALS



RISK

Incomplete decontamination of linen during the wash process

Soiled Side: washer-extractor with maintenance clearance and utility connections

Clean side: washer-extractor is flushed with the barrier wall*

*barrier wall MUST NOT be thicker than 100mm

- Install washer-extractors in a barrier configuration to prevent any dirty laundry being loaded into the washer-extractors coming into contact with the clean laundry being taken out of the washer-extractors.
- Adapt the detergent dosing to the level of soiling.
- Respect the wash programmes (pH, water hardness, temperature, water levels, time laundry is in contact with the detergent, machine filling ratio).
- Use bacteriacidal products on all textiles washed at 60°C or below.
- Dirty laundry collection bags must be cleaned and disinfected daily before returning to the wards for collection.
- Dirty laundry trolleys must be cleaned or disinfected weekly at least.
- Textile families vary not just in material but in finishing. Washing a cotton pillowcase with a cotton terry towel blends two different textile families. After washing, the pillowcase heads to the ironer, while the terry towel heads to the tumble dryer, requiring laundry operators to sort them due to distinct finishing processes.
- This should be avoided at all costs.





05 DRYING & IRONING

MEASURES RECOMMENDED UNDER EUROPEAN GUIDELINES

Drying and ironing must be carried out quickly after washing to avoid recontamination

- Ensure drying capacities are adequate to meet wash loads, do not store washed linen for long periods of time.
- Do not store washed linen in unsuitable places. Ensure correct temperatures and contact times are adhered to during the finishing (ironing) process.

Ensure that filling ratios in the drying process are

- not exceeded.

Reduce the number of times the clean linen is

- handled from the time it is taken out of the washer until it leaves the laundry room (a maximum of 04 handlings).

MUST KNOW

- Never use wooden furniture trolleys
- Do not store washed laundry at intermediate points
- Avoid sorting clean linen, they should be sorted before washing