



HOSPITAL INFECTIONS PROGRAM

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

LAUNDRY

Although soiled linen may harbor large numbers of pathogenic microorganisms, the risk of actual disease transmission from soiled linen is negligible. Rather than rigid rules and regulations, common sense hygienic practices for processing and storage of linen are recommended.

Soiled linen should be handled as little as possible and with minimum agitation to prevent gross microbial contamination of the air and persons handling the linen. All soiled linen should be bagged or placed in containers at the location where it was used and should not be sorted or rinsed in the location of use. Linen heavily contaminated with blood or other body fluids should be bagged and transported in a manner that will prevent leakage. Soiled linen is generally sorted in the laundry before washing. Laundry personnel while sorting soiled linen should wear gloves and other appropriate protective apparel.

Commercial laundry facilities often use water temperatures of at least 160°F and 50-150 ppm of chlorine bleach to remove significant quantities of microorganisms from grossly contaminated linen. *Studies have shown that a satisfactory reduction of microbial contamination can be achieved at water temperatures lower than 160°F if laundry chemicals suitable for low-temperature washing are used at proper use concentrations. All non-commercial normal washing and drying cycles including "hot" or "cold" cycles are adequate to ensure patient safety. Instructions of the manufacturers of the machine and the detergent or wash additive should be followed closely.

Commercial dry-cleaning of fabrics soiled with blood also renders these items free of the risk of pathogen transmission.

Clean linen should be handled, transported, and stored by methods that will ensure its cleanliness.

NOTE** Studies have shown that a satisfactory reduction of microbial contamination can be achieved at water temperatures lower than 160°F if laundry chemicals suitable for low-temperature washing are used at proper use concentrations.

Proper Care Information

Washing/Drying Instructions:

Please follow the listed LAUNDERING care instructions to maintain optimal performance, durability and quality of product.

Washing:

- ~ Ensure washing machine is free of burrs or sharp objects that can cause snagging
- ~ Wash like colors and products - wash dark colors separately
- ~ Do not combine with other products (i.e. towels, sheets, etc.)
- ~ Do not overload washing machine
- ~ Machine wash, warm (120° - 160° F)
- ~ Use non-chlorine bleach if needed

Drying:

- ~ Do not use any fabric softeners
- ~ Ensure dryer is free of burrs or sharp objects that can cause snagging
- ~ Dry with like colors and products
- ~ Do not combine with other products (i.e. towels, sheets, etc.)
- ~ Tumble dry on medium heat and remove promptly when dry
- ~ Do not overload dryer
- ~ Promptly remove from dryer
- ~ Use iron on low setting when needed

Testing Information Available:

<p><i>Flame Resistance</i> We test and assure our FR products versus NFPA 701-99 TM #1 20 Wash.</p>	<p><i>Seam Slippage</i> We test our products versus ASTM 434D-3597, and ship only products that meet or exceed this standard.</p>
<p><i>Pilling and Snagging</i> We test versus ASTM D3511-99 (Brush Pill), ASTM D3512 (Random Tumble) and ASTM D4157-15K Wyzenbeck to assure genuine lack of pilling, fuzzing and tearing.</p>	<p><i>Shrinkage</i> Our products will shrink less than 3% over their lifetime, as measured versus AATCC J35 Dimen Change/multi-evaluation 1+10L.</p>
<p><i>Lightfastness</i> AATCC 16 E - 60 hours</p>	