

Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities

**Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control
Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC)**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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II. Laundry Facilities and Equipment

- A. Maintain the receiving area for contaminated textiles at negative pressure compared with the clean areas of the laundry in accordance with AIA construction standards in effect during the time of facility construction.^{120, 1260-1262} **Category IC** (AIA: 7.23.B1, B2)
- B. Ensure that laundry areas have handwashing facilities and products and appropriate PPE available for workers.^{120, 967} **Category IC** (AIA: 7.23.D4; OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.1030 § d.2.iii)
- C. Use and maintain laundry equipment according to manufacturers' instructions.^{1250, 1263} **Category II**
- D. Do not leave damp textiles or fabrics in machines overnight.¹²⁵⁰ **Category II**
- E. Disinfection of washing and drying machines in residential care is not needed as long as gross soil is removed before washing and proper washing and drying procedures are used. **Category II**

III. Routine Handling of Contaminated Laundry

- A. Handle contaminated textiles and fabrics with minimum agitation to avoid contamination of air, surfaces, and persons.^{6, 967, 1258, 1259} **Category IC** (OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.1030 § d.4.iv)
- B. Bag or otherwise contain contaminated textiles and fabrics at the point of use.⁹⁶⁷ **Category IC** (OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.1030 § d.4.iv)
 - 1. Do not sort or prerinse contaminated textiles or fabrics in patient-care areas.⁹⁶⁷ **Category IC** (OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.1030 § d.4.iv)
 - 2. Use leak-resistant containment for textiles and fabrics contaminated with blood or body substances.^{967, 1258} **Category IC** (OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.1030 § d.4.iv)
 - 3. Identify bags or containers for contaminated textiles with labels, color coding, or other alternative means of communication as appropriate.⁹⁶⁷ **Category IC** (OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.1030 § d.4.iv)
- C. Covers are not needed on contaminated textile hampers in patient-care areas. **Category II**
- D. If laundry chutes are used, ensure that they are properly designed, maintained, and used in a manner to minimize dispersion of aerosols from contaminated laundry.^{1253, 1267-1270} **Category IC** (AAMI: ANSI/AAMI ST65:2000)
 - 1. Ensure that laundry bags are closed before tossing the filled bag into the chute. **Category II**
 - 2. Do not place loose items in the chute. **Category II**
- E. Establish a facility policy to determine when textiles or fabrics should be sorted in the laundry facility (i.e., before or after washing).^{1271, 1272} **Category II**

IV. Laundry Process

- A. If hot-water laundry cycles are used, wash with detergent in water $\geq 160^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($\geq 71^{\circ}\text{C}$) for ≥ 25 minutes.^{2, 120} **Category IC** (AIA: 7.31.E3)
- B. **No recommendation is offered** regarding a hot-water temperature setting and cycle duration for items laundered in residence-style health-care facilities. **Unresolved issue**
- C. Follow fabric-care instructions and special laundering requirements for items used in the facility.¹²⁷⁸ **Category II**
- D. Choose chemicals suitable for low-temperature washing at proper use concentration if low-temperature ($< 160^{\circ}\text{F}$ [$< 71^{\circ}\text{C}$]) laundry cycles are used.^{1247, 1281-1285} **Category II**
- E. Package, transport, and store clean textiles and fabrics by methods that will ensure their cleanliness and protect them from dust and soil during interfacility loading, transport, and unloading.² **Category II**

Choice of A or D
to meet CDC
recommendations

V. Microbiologic Sampling of Textiles

- A. Do not conduct routine microbiological sampling of clean textiles.^{2, 1286} **Category IB**