

Laundry Processing

Linen should be fit for purpose, clean, should be the right material, and should not be damaged or discoloured.

Essential Quality Requirements includes having correct maintenance, log books and documentation around service and repair for washing machines and dryers.
On going observation of the machines for detecting major problems.
Correct operation of the machines, including training on detergent dosing and prevention of overloading.

There should be a dirty to clean work flow, preferably 2 distinct areas where there will be an area to receive contaminated linen and an area where clean linen that has been processed can be handled to minimise the risk of cross infection.

For foul infected linen red alginate bags should be used to minimise the need for sluicing or handling.
During transfer these items should also be placed in a impermeable bag /sac

A Hand washing sink is essential in the clean area.

Once washed and dried laundry should be kept segregated from any laundry that is contaminated, preferably in another designated area.



Segregation of linen should be undertaken prior to transfer to the laundry. This is to minimise handling.
Laundry should be transferred in a trolley with wheels, not dragged across the floor.

Personal protective equipment must be worn in the laundry, particularly for handling foul infected linen. (Apron/gloves)



The temperature of the washing machine should have the capacity to reach 71°C for at least 3 minutes, or 65° C for 10 minutes, alternatively a chemical disinfection process can be adopted. This has to be validated annually



Enhanced process

Unexplained diarrhoea and vomiting
Confirmed infection
Unexplained rashes
Confirmed cases of scabies
Unexplained fever.
Thermal disinfection process, or disinfection process are required.
Heat labile items should be washed at the highest temperature possible for the item.