

Management of Contaminated Linens

1. Linen that comes into contact with workers or individuals can become contaminated with harmful micro-organisms and body fluids. Linen refers to anything that is made of cloth including bedding, towels and clothing. Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn when handling infected linen as it can transfer pathogens to skin and clothing.
2. Handle linen with care to avoid dispersal of microorganisms into the environment and to avoid contact with staff clothing.
3. Soiled linen is never shaken in the air because shaking can disseminate the micro-organisms they contain. Avoid agitation and shaking of linen.
4. Gently fold or roll soiled linen into itself.
5. If there is any solid excrement on the linen, such as feces or vomit, scrape it off carefully with a flat, firm object and put it in the toilet or garbage before putting linen in the designated laundry container.
6. Linen from one patient/resident bed is never (even momentarily) placed on another patient/resident bed.
7. Hold soiled linen away from your uniform.
8. Do not over-fill laundry bags beyond 2/3 full.
9. Do not place linen bags on floors.
10. Always do hand hygiene after handling a patient/resident bed linens.
11. Sorting and rinsing of linen must not occur in patient care areas.
12. Hoses next to hoppers need to be decommissioned as sprays or trigger sprays are not used in health care settings.
13. Hoppers must be fitted with splash guards.

