



OREGON CORRECTIONS ENTERPRISES

Laundry - Infectious Disease Control

OCE's laundry operations are under the supervision of registered Laundry Linen Directors through the Association of Linen Management. OCE follows all Centers for Disease Control (CDC) standards of infection control and prevention for the transporting, sorting, washing, drying, and handling of soiled and clean linen. All employees and adults in custody (AICs) working in OCE laundry follow standard/universal precautions as defined by both Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and CDC, to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). OCE's commitment to public safety includes controlling the spread of viruses and infections within the AIC population, staff, and the greater community.

OCE Facilities

All OCE laundry facilities are cleaned and disinfected multiple times each day. Each facility has multiple janitors who mop and disinfect surfaces and bathrooms. All janitors wear PPE to protect themselves from contamination and exposure. The chemicals used to clean the laundry facilities are approved for commercial laundry use and are automatically dispensed for accuracy.

Infectious disease prevention nurses routinely inspect OCE's laundry sort and laundry facilities for compliance with CDC and Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations standards. OCE has never been found out of compliance.

Laundry Processes Transportation

Per CDC guidelines, OCE maintains separation of clean linens from soiled linens in carts at all times during the handling, collection, and transportation of soiled linens. All contaminated laundry, whether wet or dry is placed in a sealed single or double bagged leak-proof bag and placed in a leak-proof cart to prevent possible soak-through and/or leakage of fluids to the exterior. All carts are secured for transportation to prevent spillage of soiled linens. Both staff and AIC workers are trained to use universal precautions when handling soiled laundry.

Carts used to collect or transport soiled linens are cleaned and disinfected after the cart is emptied and before being reloaded with clean laundry. All trucks are cleaned and disinfected after delivering soiled laundry to the sort facility or the laundry processing facility.

Sort Facility

Contaminated laundry is received and sorted for processing at a separate OCE facility. Contaminated laundry is bagged at the healthcare facility and is handled as little as possible with minimum agitation. Contaminated laundry is placed and transported in labeled or color coded bags for hazard identification.

Sorting laundry prior to washing allows for customization of laundry formulas based on the type of product in the system and type of soils encountered. The more differentiation in types of linen identified during the sorting process allows for an increase in process efficiencies during internal inspections, folding, and clean packing operations.

Processing

The OCE laundry processing facility is partitioned into two separate areas 1) a "dirty" area for receiving and handling the soiled laundry 2) a "clean" area for processing the washed items. Carts pass through a cart wash, where they are cleaned and disinfected as they move from the dirty to clean side of the facility.

OCE contracts with a national commercial laundry consultant who develops all wash programs for specific types of linens and water types to ensure proper garment outcomes. All chemicals are electronically dispensed for accuracy. Approved vendors supply the laundry with five standard chemicals:

- Hydrogen peroxide - a color safe bleach.
- Detergent
- Builder - increases the pH to a level to eradicate all microorganisms.
- Sour - lowers the pH to a safe neutral level.
- Softener - controls static electricity.

Water pH levels are monitored daily and tested weekly by OCE staff. Titration tests are performed monthly by the commercial laundry consultant to ensure OCE meets approved industry standards.

OCE laundry follows all guidelines set forth by the CDC for washing and drying of healthcare linen. Laundry is washed in accordance with decontamination practices recommended by the CDC. The CDC states the wash/dry temperature should be at a minimum of 160°. OCE laundry water temperature operates in a range of 160° – 165° and the dryers operate between 160° - 180°.

Clean Laundry

Per CDC guidelines, clean linens are packaged prior to transport to prevent inadvertent contamination from dust and dirt during loading, delivery, and unloading. OCE transports clean linens by customer preference either bundled, wrapped in plastic; in covered carts; or both; all in sterilized containers.



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