

Linen and Laundry

Clean Linen.

- All clean linen must be safeguarded against cross-contamination by using clean linen vehicles, receptacles, hampers, trucks, covers, protective barriers and storage areas. Clean linen is delivered to patient care areas daily in clean, covered linen carts.
- Clean linens will not be parked or set near, over, in, by, or on dirty or wet surfaces, trash room, window sills, chairs, carts, stretchers, in wheel chairs, on tables, patient's closets, cabinets, offices, nor in any air flow or current near or among soiled linens. A barrier wall must be constructed between soiled and clean linen processing area with negative air pressure on clean linen side.
- All emergency breakout linen must be secured in a clean room free from cross-contamination.
- Linen carts will be delivered and remain secured on units and only assigned personnel given the authority to dispense clean linen.
- Ventilation should move air from clean to soiled areas to prevent cross-contamination.

Soiled Linen. Must be handled as little as possible and with minimum agitation to prevent microbial contamination of the air and of persons handling the linen. In as much as possible, a soiled linen hamper containing a labeled "SOILED LINEN" plastic bag should be at point-of-use when disposing of soiled linen. Soiled linen is placed in a plastic bag or other container of sufficient quality to contain wet/soiled linen. Soiled linen should be held away from the body of the healthcare worker, should not be placed on the floor, dragged in the hall, or left in the window sill or bathroom. When a soiled linen bag is full (being careful not to overfill to avoid injury to the healthcare worker when lifting the bag or having the bag break and cause undue exposure to soiled linen) the bag is tied at the top and placed in the large blue transportation bin located in the Soiled Utility room. Protective attire (i.e., gowns, gloves) will be worn by personnel if sorting is required.

Transportation of Linen.

- Separate carts shall be used to transport contaminated, soiled, and clean linens. These carts shall be marked accordingly.
- Soiled linen will not be transported in the same vehicle at the same time with clean linen.
- All linen carts and vehicles will be sanitized periodically. Sanitizing involves removing obvious trash and washing with an approved germicidal solution(s).
- Linen carts and delivery trucks will be kept free of contamination and stored in areas free of obvious contamination.
- Linen shall be covered during transport.