

Domestic Laundry Machine IPC Recommendations

All soiled personal linen should be handled in the same way for all patients. Linen is to be handled with a minimum of shaking.

Never place soiled linen on the floor. Remove heavy soiling before washing. Roll or fold heavily soiled personal linen to contain the heaviest soil in the center of the bundle without contaminating your clothing. Transport soiled personal linen to laundry area in a dedicated hamper or bag.

Wash hands with soap and water after handling soiled linen.



Designate each load for one patient's linen only. Load domestic washing machines according to machine instructions.

Hot (not warm) water washes are required if cold water detergents are not used. Slings and lift straps may be laundered in domestic washers if site procedures allow. Wash according to manufacturer's directions.

Follow detergent instructions for load size and load soiling. Measure detergent with manufacturer's measuring cup or use pre-measured amount.



Use complete wash and rinse cycles. Heavy soiling may require additional prewash cycles. Using a disinfectant, wipe down surfaces of washer that have had contact with the soiled linen to avoid re-soiling as it is unloaded.

Perform hand hygiene before handling clean linen.



Clean hands before removing clean linen from washing machine and dry linen promptly.

Hang in a clean area, if item requires hanging to dry.

Fold linen on clean surfaces with clean hands.



Run empty washer with 1 chlorine disinfectant tablet (equivalent to 1 cup of chlorine bleach) and water ONLY after heavily soiled loads of linen or if patient is on additional precautions.

Chlorine bleach tablets must be stored securely and used in a manner that follows the product's posted safety data sheet.

Gloves and gowns should be available to protect hands and clothing.

