

## SOILED LINEN COLLECTION

### PRIMARY CONSIDERATIONS

Good linen collection procedures will benefit the entire laundry operation. While collection systems will vary from one operation to another the following best practices can serve as a guide.

### BEST PRACTICES

#### 1. COLLECTION:

- Soiled linen should not be sorted in patient rooms or hallways.
- Soiled linen should be removed from patient beds without undue agitation. Sheets should be rolled from the corners containing other miscellaneous soiled items in the bundle.
- Soiled linen, once removed, should be placed immediately in a lined, cleanable hamper or similar container with a cover for storage in the soiled utility area.
- Avoid throwing the soiled linen on the floor where it can be walked on, and do not use it for any room cleaning procedures.

#### 2. CARTS:

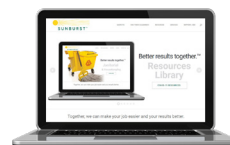
- Two carts, one for extra heavy soils and one for lightly soiled linen should always be used. Mixing heavily soiled items with lightly soiled items means all should be washed on a heavy soil formula and add to laundry operation cost.
- Towels used for housekeeping should be sorted separately as they often develop stains that cannot easily be removed.

#### 3. CONTAMINATED LINEN:

- Contaminated linen should be collected with minimal contact and shaking. Shaking contaminated linen will result in increased dispersion of micro-organisms into the air and surrounding surfaces.
- Contaminated linen, such as linen from patients with infectious drainage, dressings or pads shall be stored and sent to the laundry in separate bags which are plainly marked to indicate that their contents are contaminated. The bags shall be tightly closed until the contents are removed from the bag, and placed in the washer with the bag, if non-disposable. Laundry personnel shall be instructed in the safe handling of such laundry.

#### ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

- The CDC's Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities



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