

LAUNDRY

2020-21



Vista Care Solutions Ltd trading as Sunlight Care Newham. Registered in England. Company No: 11353031.
Registered Office: 3-9 Balaam Street, London, E13 8EB

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Facilities

The facilities provided in Sunlight Care include:

- A designated laundry area, which shall be used only for that purpose
- Industrial washing machines, which have a cold, sluice cycle and wash cycle temperatures, which meet and comply with disinfection standards, and accurate thermometers, which register the true wash temperatures.
- Machines which have been installed professionally with a cover over the drain to prevent aerosol contamination and will be subject to regular maintenance programmes with records being kept of these checks.
- Tumble driers, which ensure thorough drying of all clothing, bedding and linen.
- Hand washing and changing facilities are available.
- Ironing facilities are available.

Handling of Linen

Linen will be removed from the resident's bed with care and placed directly into the appropriate bag. No sorting of linen should take place in a resident's room or public area of Sunlight Care. Staff must always wash hands after handling linen.

How should Linen be Bagged?

Category	Type of Linen	Inner Bag	Outer Bag
Soiled Linen	Ordinary used bed linen, and towels, including items soiled with urine or faeces	None for dry items. Clear polythene bag for items soiled with urine or faeces.	White fabric
Known or suspected Infected/Infested Linen	Linen soiled by faecal matter from clients with loose stool, blood, bile or possibly infected matter such as pus and linen from infected or infested clients.	Red water-soluble alginate bag, or a bag with a suitable water soluble membrane.	Heavy gauge transparent polythene bag.
Clothing	Categorise as above but bag separately		

Heavily blood-soaked linen from residents with Hepatitis B, or who are HIV positive should be placed in double yellow clinical waste bags for incineration.

Washing Linen and Clothing

Soiled linen: the washing process should have a disinfection cycle in which the load temperature is maintained at 65°C for at least ten minutes or preferably 71°C for three minutes. Fabrics, which require lower temperatures, should be washed separately.

Known or Suspected Infection/Infested Linen: These should not be handled any more than is absolutely necessary. Temperatures should reach the same as for soiled linen. Foul linen may require a sluice cycle before the hot wash. Do not sluice by hand as this may spray bacteria onto surfaces, uniforms and staff. Foul or infected items, which cannot be laundered on a hot wash, can be disinfected if suitable, by adding an additional hypochlorite solution. Check the individual washing instructions before adding chlorine-releasing agents to clothes. They should not be used on fabrics treated for fire resistance.

Always take care that the washing machine is not overloaded, or it will not wash effectively.

Infection Control Precautions

The germs in soiled and fouled linen are most unlikely to cause infection in health workers provided care is taken. The following will ensure that the risk to employees is minimal:

- At all times wear aprons and gloves when dealing with used laundry.
- Any cuts or sores on the hand must always be covered with a waterproof dressing.
- Ensure adequate hand washing and changing facilities are available and used.
- Protective clothing should be removed, and the hands properly washed before returning to other duties.
- Ensure that employees are trained, and guidelines are available setting out cleaning procedures for employees, equipment, and the laundry area.

Storing Linen

There should be a separate area for drying, ironing and storage of clean linen away from used linen, to prevent clean linen from becoming contaminated. Clean linen should be stored in a dry area above floor level. It must not be stored in bathrooms or sluices.