

## Laundry Fundamentals Training Overview

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### Correct Load Sorting

- ✔ Don't overload linen bags
- ✔ Remove all foreign objects (e.g. rings, tissues) before loading the bags
- ✔ Sort wash loads into categories to make sure all linen is cleaned properly
- ✔ **ALWAYS** process infectious or contaminated items separately from all other linens
- ✔ **ALWAYS** use water soluble linen bags to carry infectious or contaminated items

### Efficient Washer Loading

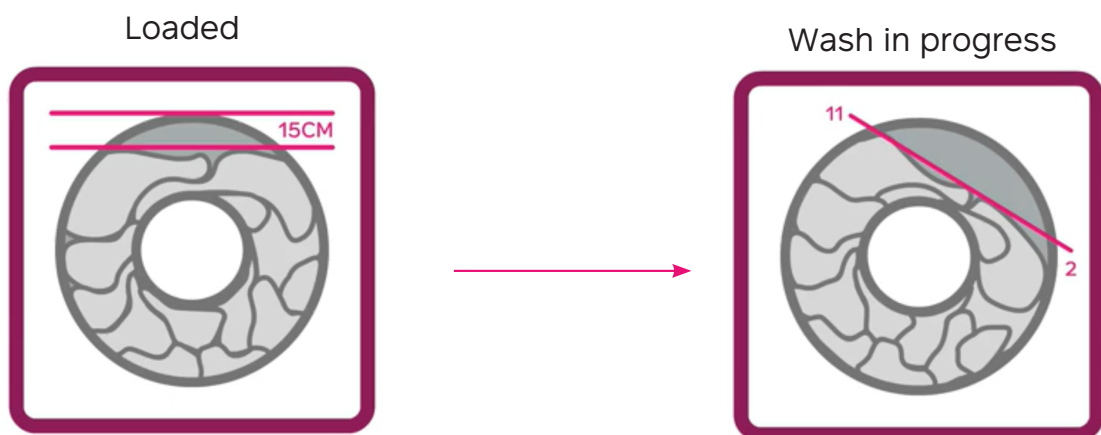
How much you should fill a washer will depend on the type of linen.

When loading towelling, you can fill all available space in the drum.

When loading bed linen, leave 6 inches (15cm) of space from the top of the drum.

This is important to allow the linen to move so soils will be loosened.

You've done this right when the linen has a 'fall' like this:



When washing contaminated linen reduce the load size by 25%. This allows linen to separate which means better flushing of heavier soils in a contaminated wash cycle.



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## Wash Cycles

Your laundry wash cycles are individually built for specific linen types and soil levels. It's important to know what factors contribute when building the wash cycle:

- ✓ Temperature
- ✓ Mechanical action (the 'fall')
- ✓ Time
- ✓ Soil level
- ✓ Chemical formulas
- ✓ Water levels, and
- ✓ Disinfection requirements.

If you wish, ask your Veridia Field Service Specialist to explain why your wash cycles are set up like they are.

## Disinfection Standards

It is imperative that your residents have disinfected clothing, to protect them and to uphold the disinfection standards as set out in AS4146:2000 for accreditation.

There are two main types of disinfection in a laundry:

**Thermal** disinfection and **Chemical** disinfection.

### Thermal Disinfection

Thermal disinfection uses high temperatures to kill bacteria. Make sure to prevent problems like increased bacteria levels and staining by following the recommended heat and time combinations.

Either:

**65°C** maintained for over **10 minutes**, or

**71°C** maintained for **over 3 minutes**.



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## Chemical Disinfection

Chemical disinfection uses chemicals dispensed during a wash cycle.

Automatic dispensing systems add the chemicals at pre-set amounts and times, as installed by a technician.

You must validate chemical disinfection practices as equivalent to the thermal guidelines before they are accepted for routine use.

Validation is based on factors such as:

- ✓ The set-up of the laundry
- ✓ The service frequency
- ✓ The products in use
- ✓ The levels used to achieve disinfection
- ✓ The testing procedures used

Factors that must be included are:

- ✓ Identification of the chemical
- ✓ The concentration at which it is supplied
- ✓ The concentration at which it is to be used
- ✓ The means used to indicate effectiveness
- ✓ Bacteria testing reports

## Monitoring Your Laundry

To keep track of all the factors that need to be maintained to meet the requirements for disinfection, we strongly advise that you implement a monitoring scheme to guarantee these conditions.

Records must be kept on setup, servicing and wash cycles.

- ✓ Both thermal and chemical setups must be recorded and reviewed regularly
- ✓ Servicing of all equipment should be kept up to date and all reports held onsite for min. 12mo



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## Monitoring Your Laundry

Wash cycle records may be needed for accreditation, and should include the following information:

- ✓ The type of linen (wash cycle classification)
- ✓ The amount of linen to be washed (washer size in kilograms)
- ✓ A detailed wash program including time, temperature & water levels for each step of the cycle
- ✓ The chemical amounts delivered per wash cycle

## Correct PPE

When sorting or loading the washers, staff should always be wearing the appropriate PPE.

PPE that must be used in a laundry are:

- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Aprons
- ✓ Face masks or safety glasses

When loading the washer, this procedure should be followed:

- ① Firstly, put on gloves
- ② Load the washer
- ③ Remove gloves
- ④ Close the washer door
- ⑤ Select and start the wash cycle
- ⑥ Clean & sanitise the washer door and handle



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## Correct Drying Procedures

- ✔ Transport the washed linen (in a clean linen trolley) to the dryers for processing
- ✔ Maintain the correct sorting in the drying process. Mixed loads will dry at different times and prolong the drying stage, which can damage and discolour linen.
- ✔ Do not overload dryers and always select the correct drying cycle to match the linen type.
- ✔ Never leave linen in the dryer overnight as this can be a fire hazard.
- ✔ Follow the manufacturers' instructions for drying procedures and cleaning requirements.

## General Laundry Procedures

Follow your laundry's guidelines on folding, ironing, sorting and delivery of linens.

Keep the laundry clean and tidy:

- ✔ Vacuuming dust and lint from all areas
- ✔ Mopping all floor areas
- ✔ Cleaning and disinfecting the benches, trolleys, and washers
- ✔ Cleaning lint screens on the dryers

