Housekeeping/Laundry/Maintenance

A. The nursing home shall have available, at all times, a quantity of bed and bath linen essential for proper care and comfort of residents.

B. All linen shall be in good condition.

C. All used linen shall be bagged or enclosed in appropriate containers for transportation to the laundry.

D. Soiled linen storage areas shall be ventilated to the outside atmosphere.

E. Linen from residents with a communicable disease shall be bagged, in readily identifiable containers distinguishable from other laundry, at the location where it was used.

F. Linen soiled with blood or body fluids shall be placed and transported in bags that prevent leakage.

G. If hot water is used, linen shall be washed with detergent in water at least 160°F for 25 minutes. If low-temperature (less than or equal to 158°F) laundry cycles are used, chemicals suitable for low-temperature washing, at proper use concentration, shall be used.

H. Provisions shall be made for laundering personal clothing of residents.

I. Clean linen shall be transported and stored in a manner to prevent its contamination.

J. Nursing homes providing in-house laundry services shall have a laundry system designed to eliminate crossing of soiled and clean linen.

K. There shall be hand washing facilities for employees in the laundry.

E. There shall be a separate soiled utility room designed for proper cleansing, disinfecting, and sterilizing of equipment and supplies. As a minimum, it shall contain equipment to satisfactorily clean resident care equipment, a clinic service sink, and provisions for the storage of cleaning supplies (e.g., mops and pails) and chemical supplies. R. There shall be an effective pest control program so that the nursing home is free of pest and rodent infestation.

B. The minimum resident capacity of a nursing home shall be 150 square feet gross area per resident. Bedroom square footage per bed is a part of this gross area.

Staff Area

G. Separate toilet and lavatory facilities for use by employees shall be provided. Separate bathtubs, whirlpools, or showers shall be provided for employees who live on the premises.

Corridors, Floors, and Signage
C. A ceiling height of at least 8 feet shall be provided in nursing homes or additions to nursing homes in which construction plans were initially approved by DHH and the State Fire Marshal’s Office after January 20, 1998.

Q. Corridors used by residents shall be equipped on each side with firmly secured handrails, affixed to the wall.

**Lighting, Noise, Temperature (HVAC), and Odors**

A. The nursing home shall maintain all essential mechanical, electrical, and resident care equipment in safe operating condition.

F. An adequate number of battery-generated lamps or flash lights shall be available for staff use in case of electrical power failure.

G. The nursing home shall make arrangements for an adequate supply of safe potable water even when there is a loss of normal water supply. Service from a public water supply must be used, if available. Private water supplies, if used, must meet the requirements of the State Sanitary Code.

H. An adequate supply of hot water shall be provided which shall be adequate for general cleaning, washing, and sterilizing of cooking and food service dishes and other utensils, and for bathing and laundry use. Hot water supply to the hand washing and bathing faucets in the resident areas shall have automatic control to assure a temperature of not less than 100 °F, nor more than 120 °F, at the faucet outlet.

I. The nursing home shall be connected to the public sewerage system, if such a system is available. Where a public sewerage is not available, the sewerage disposal system shall conform to the requirements of the State Sanitary Code.

J. The nursing home shall maintain a comfortable sound level conducive to meeting the need of the residents.

K. All plumbing shall be properly maintained and conform to the requirements of the State Sanitary Code and the public.

M. There shall be adequate outside ventilation by means of window, or mechanical ventilation or a combination of the two.

N. All openings to the outside atmosphere shall be effectively screened. Exterior doors equipped with closers in air conditioned buildings need not have screens.

O. Each room used by residents shall be capable of being heated to not less than 71 °F in the coldest weather and capable of being cooled to not more than 81 °F in the warmest weather.

P. Lighting levels in all areas shall be adequate to support task performance by staff personnel and independent functioning of residents. A minimum of 6’ to 10’ candles over the entire stairway, corridors, and resident rooms measured at an elevation of 30 inches above the floor and a minimum of 20’ to 30’ candles over areas used for reading or close work shall be available.

**Amenities**
G. There shall be at least one telephone adapted for use by residents with hearing impairments at a height accessible to bound residents who use wheelchairs and be available for resident use where calls can be made without being overheard.

**Outdoor Area**

F. A hard surfaced off-the-road parking area to provide parking for one car per five licensed beds shall be provided. This requirement is minimum and may be exceeded by local ordinances. Where this requirement would impose an unreasonable hardship, a written request for a lesser amount may be submitted to the department for waiver consideration.

**New Construction: Facility-Wide**