

COLORADO

Part 21. LINEN AND LAUNDRY

21.1 LAUNDRY FACILITIES. Laundry facilities and/or contract with commercial laundry shall be provided with the necessary washing, drying, and ironing equipment having sufficient capacity to process a continuous seven-day supply based on ten pounds of dry laundry per bed per day. Laundry equipment shall meet all safety and sanitary requirements. The equipment shall be designed and installed to comply with all state and local laws. Laundry equipment, processing, and procedures shall render soiled linen and patient clothing clean and free from detergent, soap, and other chemical residues.

21.1.1 Laundry facilities and operations shall be located in an area separated from Resident Care Units.

21.1.2 In facilities constructed after the effective date of these regulations, there shall be proper spacing and placing of the equipment to minimize material transportation and operation, to avoid all cross traffic between clean and soiled linen, to provide balance of operations, and to provide storage between operations. The general air movement shall be from the cleanest areas to the most contaminated areas. Soiled laundry shall be processed frequently enough to prevent excessive unsanitary accumulations.

21.2 WASHING TEMPERATURE. The temperature of water during the washing and hot rinsing process shall be a minimum of 130 degrees F and for a combined period of time of at least 25 minutes, and the detergent shall be compatible with the wash cycle and temperature (as evidenced by purveyor statement or literature kept for inspection). Washers shall not be overloaded so as to limit adequate movement of contents and flow of water through the fabrics.

21.3 COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY SERVICES. If laundry facilities are not provided entirely within the facility there shall be a written contract between the facility and a commercial laundry service that provides for compliance with Section 21.2.

21.4 RESIDENT LINEN SUPPLY. Linen supply (top and bottom sheets, pillowcases, washcloths, bath and face towels) shall be at least three complete changes times the number of licensed beds. All linens shall be maintained clean, in good repair.

21.5 SOILED LINEN HANDLING. In removing and handling soiled linen from a bed, there shall be minimal shaking of the linen. Soiled linen, including blankets, shall be placed in bags tightly closed before removal from a bedroom. The bags shall remain closed, shall be removed from the Resident Care Unit at least every eight hours.

21.6 INFECTIOUS DISEASE LINEN. All linens and blankets from residents with infectious disease shall be placed in special bags identified "contaminated" and transported in these closed bags. Special measures shall be taken to insure the disinfection of contaminated laundry and protection of persons doing laundry.

21.7 SORTING AND PRE-RINSING. Pre-rinsing shall be permitted only in a designated room where approved facilities are provided. Sorting and all other linen and laundry operations shall be confined to the laundry facility and shall not be permitted in the resident's room, bathtub, shower, lavatory or janitor's closets.

21.8 LINEN CHUTES. If linen chutes are used, all soiled linen, clothing, and other items deposited in them shall first be enclosed in bags before placing them in chute. Linen chutes shall be cleaned regularly by methods approved by the Department.

21.9 SOILED LINEN CARTS. Carts and hampers used to transport soiled linen shall be constructed of or lined with impervious materials, cleaned and disinfected after use, and used only for transporting soiled linen.

21.10 SOILED LINEN STORAGE. The facility shall provide a separate soiled linen storage and sorting area, mechanically ventilated to the outside atmosphere. No recirculation of air from this area is permitted.

21.11 HANDWASHING EQUIPMENT. Handwashing facilities shall be provided in the laundry facility.

21.12 HANDWASHING. All personnel shall wash their hands thoroughly after handling any soiled linen.

21.13 RESIDENT CLOTHING. Resident clothing and other laundry shall be processed and stored in a manner approved by the Department.

21.14 CLEAN LINEN STORAGE. A clean linen folding/storage room shall be provided as part of the laundry area, located adjacent to the drying equipment. Positive pressure shall be maintained in this area. Storage for clean linen for current use shall be provided on each Resident Care Unit.

21.15 CLEAN LINEN HANDLING. Clean linen shall be transported in a manner that preserves its clean condition so that it is clean at the site of its use.