

.34 Housekeeping Services, Pest Control, and Laundry.

A. Staff. Sufficient housekeeping and maintenance personnel shall be employed to maintain the interior and exterior of the facility in a safe, clean, orderly, and attractive manner.

B. Cleanliness and Maintenance. The following shall be observed:

(1) The building and all its parts and facilities shall be kept in good repair, neat and attractive. The safety and comfort of the patients shall be the first consideration.

(2) All walls, floors, ceilings, windows, and fixtures shall be kept clean. Interior walls and floors shall be of a character to permit frequent and easy cleaning.

(3) The facility shall be kept free of unnecessary accumulations of personal possessions, boxes, trunks, suitcases, papers, unused furniture, bed clothing, linens, bric-a-brac, and similar items.

(4) The grounds shall be kept clean, neat, attractive, and free of hazards.

(5) The facility shall be maintained free of insects and rodents by operation of an active pest-control program, either by use of maintenance personnel or by contract with pest-control company. Care shall be exercised in the usage and storage of toxic and flammable insecticides and rodenticides. Usage shall conform to the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration and Maryland Department of Agriculture requirements.

Agency Note: Refer to Regulation .26S of this chapter for window screening requirements.

C. Laundries-New Facilities. In laundries in new facilities there shall be a physical separation between the "clean" and "soil" areas. There shall be provision for the laundering of patients' clothing. Hot water temperatures in laundries shall conform to applicable standards of the International Fabric Care Institute for laundry water supply.

D. Laundries-Existing Facilities. In existing facilities where a physical separation is not possible, exceptions as to approved laundry facilities may be made at the discretion of the Department. There shall be provision for the laundering of patients' clothing. Hot water temperatures in laundries shall conform to applicable standards of the International Fabric Care Institute for laundry water supply.