Guidance for the Safe Management of Linen in Residential, Nursing or Other Social Healthcare Environments

Each care home will have its own processes and risk assessments, but there are key areas to focus on. Physical space can be a challenge, however, some areas are fundamental in helping ensure you deliver a compliant laundry operation.

Provide separate areas for the handling and storage of soiled or infectious and clean linen Ensure infection control processes are maintained throughout the laundry process

Keep equipment clean and well-maintained

Ensure laundry chemicals are managed adequately



TRANSPORTATION OF CLEAN LINEN



Transfer clean linen to appropriate storage at the earliest opportunity



DRYING AND IRONING CLEAN LINEN



Tumble dryer and iron linen as required.
Check care labels.



HANDLING & STORAGE OF CLEAN LINEN



Remove from packaging and store clean linen in a dedicated cupboard or trolley (or resident's room)

SAFE LAUNDERING PROCESSES

MACHINE



WASH PROGRAMMES

- Launder soiled linen on highest possible temperature according to item laundering
- Launder infectious linen using appropriate thermal or chemical disinfection wash cycles



HANDLING & SOILED OR INFECTIOUS LINEN



- Take appropriate linen basket/red soluble bags to point of use
- Segregate soiled from infectious linen
- Wear PPE and use hand washing facilities to manage contamination risk



TRANSPORTATION OF SOILED OR INFECTIOUS LINEN



Transfer linen in correct bags to laundry as soon as possible in covered, lidded containers

