

HOSPITAL LINEN SAFETY

FROM LAUNDRY TO PATIENT AND BACK



AT THE LAUNDRY FACILITY

1. THE DROP OFF

Soiled hospital linen is taken to laundry facility's soiled loading dock, which is separate from the clean loading dock.



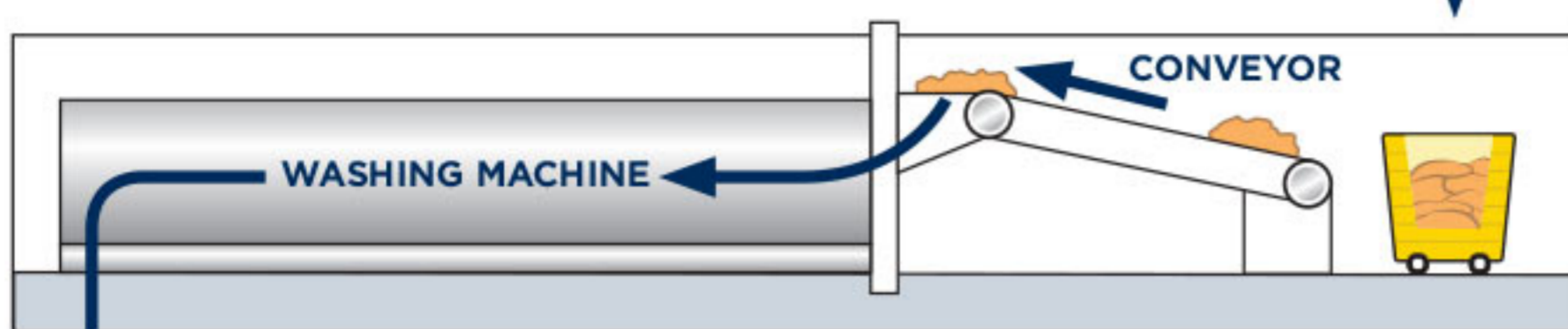
2. SOILED LINEN SORTING ROOM

The soiled linen is sorted by type in a large room with fans that keep foul smells and tiny particles from entering other areas of the facility.



3. LINEN CARTS TAKEN TO CLEANING ROOMS

Dirty linen is taken to a conveyor that dumps it into the washing machine.



CART WASH

Dirty carts are taken to a separate wash room.



Carts are cleaned with a disinfectant solution.



Clean carts are wiped dry and ready for loading.



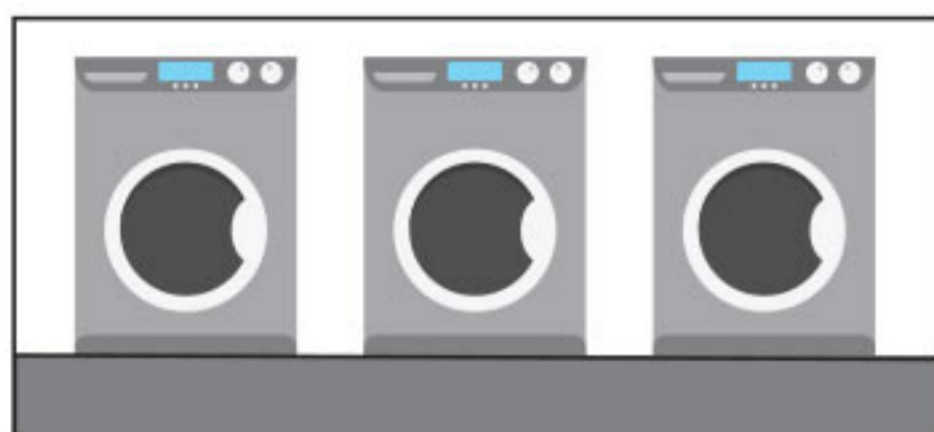
4. LINEN WASH PROCESS

The washing machine, about the size of a bus, puts the dirty linen through a 9-step process that takes about 25 to 30 minutes to complete. The cleaning formula used is determined based on the type of items being laundered.



5. THE DRYERS

About 8 times the size of a standard household dryer, each of these mega-dryers can handle up to 550lbs of wet linen.



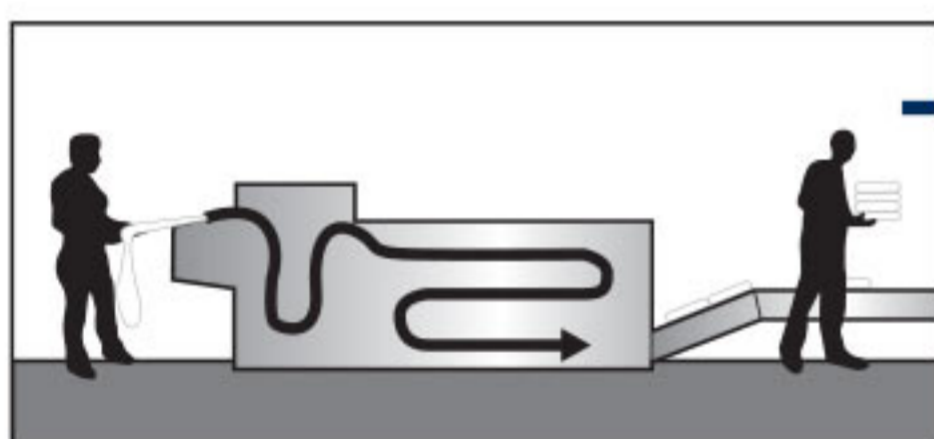
6. INSPECTION

If holes or tears are found, the newly dubbed "rag linen" is sold or discarded. Stained linen gets rewashed.



7. IRON AND FOLD

Workers feed certain types of linen into machines that iron and fold the clean laundry.



8. CLEAN CART STAGING AREA

Clean delivery carts are filled with clean linen, they are covered in plastic and taken to a staging area, near the clean linen dock, for delivery.



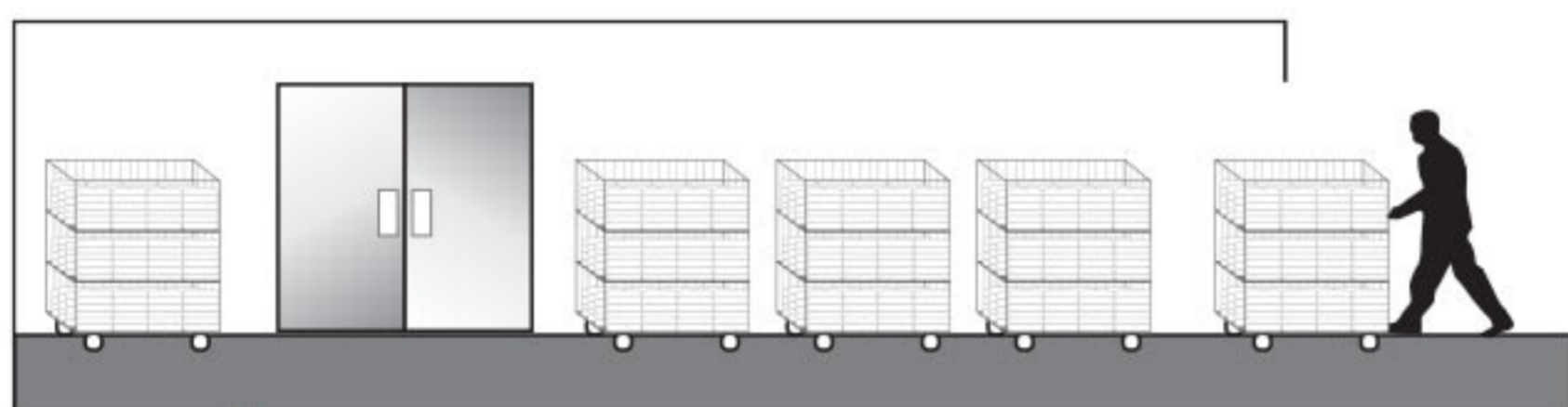
9. THE DELIVERY



AT THE HOSPITAL

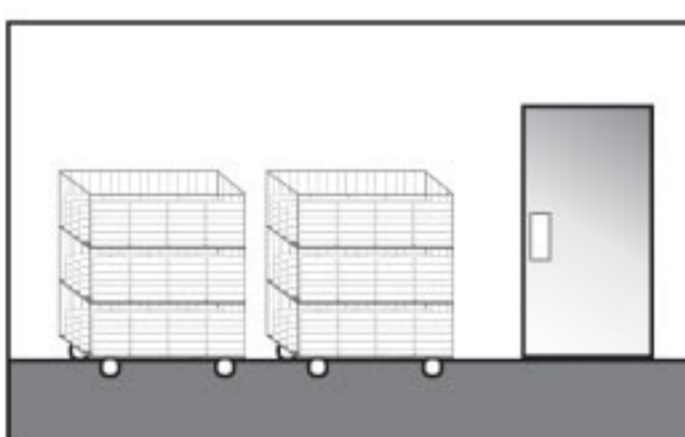
10. CLEAN LINEN STORAGE ROOM AND DOCK

The delivery truck loaded with the hospital's clean linen, docks in an area designated for clean laundry storage. The hospital stores the linen in this area until it is required by and dispersed to various units within the hospital.



11. CLEAN CLOSET

Every unit in the hospital has a designated storage room for clean linen.



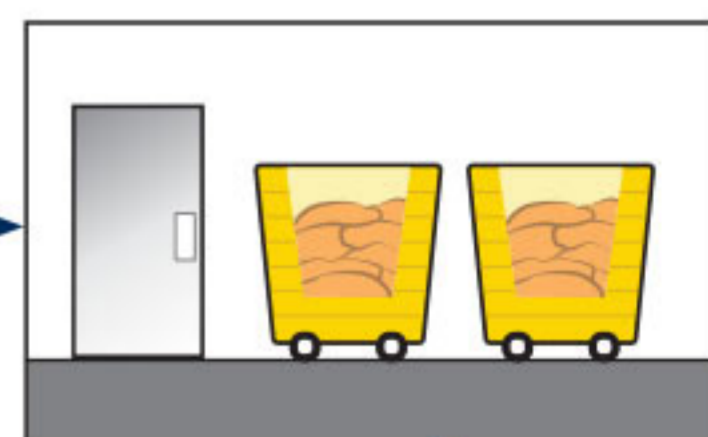
12. LINEN IN USE

Hospital linens are most likely soiled while being used as intended: in patient rooms and operating rooms as blood and other fluids come in contact with sheets, towels, and gowns.



13. SOILED CLOSET

Every department has a room where dirty linen is stored in plastic bags.



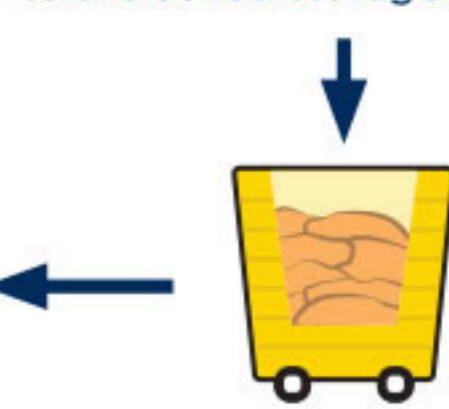
15. SOILED LINEN STORAGE ROOM AND DOCK

Employees load the soiled linens from a soiled-only storage room into a truck to be returned to the launderer, where the cycle repeats.



14. THE CHUTE

Soiled linen bags are taken to a laundry chute or hauled to the soiled storage room



*The sour cycle neutralizes acidity in laundry. It's needed so that fabric doesn't cause skin irritation or create odors. It can also eliminate the likelihood of chemical damage to fabrics that can also cause discoloration.

Sources: Associated Hospital Services, East Jefferson General Hospital