

Best Practice: Appendix 8 - Linen Bagging and Tagging

CATEGORY	INNER BAG	LINEN BAG
<p>Used Linen</p> <p>All used linen in the care setting not contaminated by blood or body fluids.</p>	<p>None required.</p>	
<p>Infectious Linen</p> <p>All linen used by a person known or suspected to be infectious and linen that is contaminated with blood or body fluids.</p>	<p>Water soluble (alginate) bag placed into a clear polythene bag.</p> 	
<p>Heat Labile</p> <p>Linen that may be damaged (shrinkage/stretching) by thermal disinfection.</p>	<p>If 'used' none required. If 'infectious' treat as above*.</p> <p>*If a patient's personal items require laundering follow the guidance set out in the 'washing clothes at home' leaflet. Colour coding for personal laundry bags may vary locally.</p>	

Ensure all linen bags are:

- Securely tied
- Not overfilled
- Tagged with Hospital, ward/department and date

If linen process has been outsourced to an industrial service provider, follow the categorisation system for used and infectious linen set out by the service provider.

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Part of the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM), available at: <http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/>.

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